

And So Much More



Living Legacies of North Carolina
Women on Mission

Dorothy Allred



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BAPTIST HISTORY AND HERITAGE SOCIETY
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Prologue

Several ideas expressed by others have influenced my work on this book. They either initiated ideas for me or confirmed thoughts I had embraced in the process of gathering information and writing.

There is a common Christian sensibility, elegantly expressed by a priest who lived 1844-89. He said, 'Time has three dimensions and one positive pitch or direction. It is therefore not so much like any river or any sea as like the Sea of Galilee, which has the Jordan running through it and giving a current to the whole.' (George F. Will's syndicated column, *Gaston Gazette*, Gastonia, NC, December 23, 1999)

I see an analogy here. Women were present before denominational structures were formed. They were present responding to God's command to be on mission in the world, stirring the larger body of believers even as they organized, to "go and tell" everybody about Jesus.

Thus, flowing through and out of the denomination, and continuing on and on with their individual and collective mission lifestyles, the women of Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina have continually made a difference in the state and in the world. Although challenged by the larger body, they have never lost sight of their call and their source of empowerment through the Holy Spirit.

In one of his books, Dr. Mackay of Princeton says there are two points of view from which we may study Christ. One is the view from the balcony. It is that of the interested, but detached, spectator who studies Christ without any effort to follow Him and with no commitment to His claims. The other point of view is that of the man who has taken the road with Christ and is following where He leads. (James Reid, *Where*

the New World Begins, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York/Nashville, 1947, 21. Copyright by Stone and Pierce.)

Some will not understand the importance of certain things recorded in this book. It may depend on whether their observations are from the “balcony” or from “the road.” I personally fail to have the words to communicate the powerful relationship with the Lord that comes with the involvement that is possible as laborers together with Him.

“There is no history - only biography,” is a statement credited to Emerson (*Hoyt’s New Encyclopedia of Practical Quotations*, Somerset Books, 362). I believe this. I have come to see that His Story is told by the lived-out faith of His followers. This includes those who make up Woman’s Missionary Union. There really is nothing to tell apart from that. The Bible is the best example of this truth.

My late husband, Dr. Hoyle Allred, said he believed we will all be surprised to discover who the “greats” in the Kingdom are; there will be included those who have never stood on a platform or had their names and pictures in the newspapers, nor received recognition or acclaim here on earth. The really “greats” in WMU will be those women who faithfully, week after week, amidst busy, demanding lives in the home and in the business world took the time to be there for children: Mission Friends, GAs, Acteens, and the like. There will be those who did not have the support and understanding of other members of their families. But with joy they used their limited resources to help children and youth have life changing experiences in such places as camps, retreats and sleep-overs. There they studied about and heard called-out women with a commitment to missions. Some of them are included in this history.

There is considerable risk in identifying only a few of the many who need to be included in this roll call of the faithful. Since it is not possible to include all the faithful you or I know personally, I hope you will realize those who are mentioned are just a few examples of the many, many, faithful women who have done much for missions in the churches and associations throughout the state. Being named here does not make a person more important. Not being named here does not make a person less important. Each one is important and essential in God’s plan for His world.

During the rather long period I worked on the history, one scripture has been brought to mind many times, Ephesians 3:20. In the nine translations I checked, one key thought stands out: “...by his power

within us God is able to do far more than we ever dare to ask or imagine” (Phillips); “...unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...” (King James); “By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope” (New Living Translation); “With God’s power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of. To Him be glory in the church and in Jesus Christ for all time forever and ever” (New Century Version).

A contemporary translation by Eugene Peterson in *The Message* (NavPress Publishing) states:

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.
Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all millennia! Oh, Yes!

Thus the name of this book was chosen: *And So Much More: Living Legacies of North Carolina Women on Mission*.

Acknowledgements

To research files, reports, and records, to conduct interviews and otherwise attempt to gather information for a book on how God has moved in and through Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina for over 114 years is an overwhelming task. It would have been an impossible task without the assistance of so many, without number, who assisted me in so many ways.

I am indebted to:

- Bernice Cross for her research in preparation for the 1986 Centennial Observance of North Carolina WMU, for the unpublished brief history she wrote, and for her wise counsel until the time of her death.
- The many women who recorded the WMU history of their church and association and forwarded them to the state WMU office in connection with the 1986 Centennial observance. These histories contained invaluable information, much not available anywhere else.
- The many people who responded to letters and other appeals for stories that needed to be told, those I knew about and those I didn't. I regret space did not permit all of them to be included.
- Pat Liles and Judy Branch for research conducted in the WMU office; to the helpfulness of the entire staff who responded to requests for information.
- Kay Bissette, without whom the book would not look like it does, for her expertise in formatting the original manuscript en route to the publisher, and the hours spent doing it.
- The History Committee: Bernice Cross, Betty Gilreath, Kathryn Greene, Pina Maynard, Sara Parker, Suthell Walker (and originally Dot Allred). Added, following the deaths of Bernice Cross and Kathryn Greene, were: Kay Bissette, Bea

McRae, and Ann Smith, chairman. Ruby Fulbright, WMU President, and Katharine Bryan, Interim Executive Director, were ex officio members.

- To Katharine Bryan who brought added expertise, wise counseling, and contacts for publishing.

And gratitude to God for an understanding, helpful family who encouraged and overlooked my absence from many family events, who gave me space and equipment to work, and who helped me stay at the task until it was completed. Daughter Susan, the educator and grammar guru in the family, gave me much time and help along the way, while realizing at times, “that is just the way Mom expresses it.”

CHAPTER ONE

Go and Tell

Prior to 1886

Where It All Began

To find out how women got started in missions, we need to go to the garden tomb that early resurrection morning long ago. It was there the first command of Jesus was given, instructing the women to “Go and Tell.” The gospel accounts differ regarding who the women were and how many were there. John and Mark report that, “when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.”

In the softly breaking dawn of that new day Jesus commanded her to “...go to my brethren and say unto them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, and My God and your God’” (John 20:17). Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them what He had said.

Jesus referred to His disciples as His brethren. In spite of their unfaithfulness to Him during His trial and crucifixion, He still loved them and wanted them to have the good news of the resurrection. Thus He commanded Mary to bear His message to the disciples.

Mary did as He instructed. To her everlasting credit, Mary was the first person to tell others of seeing the risen Lord. What Mary did was in keeping with the spirit of the Great Commission Jesus gave a short time later. The Great Commission, recorded in Matthew 28:19-20, was given to the disciples when they went to the mountain where Jesus told them to meet Him. “I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (*New Living Translation*, Tyndale House).

This is where it all began! This is where we received our instructions, our marching orders. Women have been going and telling about their encounters with the risen, reigning Lord ever since. God has clearly led and empowered men and women in every generation to spread the Good News of Jesus and His love and His power to save.

In the book of Acts we have the first chapter in the history of Christian missions and there we can read about women used in God's plan:

Dorcas, a seamstress, who was "full of good works and alms deeds."

Lydia, a business woman, a seller of purple—a merchant. Her home was opened to neighbors and friends for the purpose of teaching about Jesus and her new found faith. Because she helped Paul, the gospel did not stop at Philippi but spread throughout Europe and westward.

Phoebe, from the wicked port city of Cenchrea, is referred to as a servant of the church; the same Greek word is used for deacon. Many feel she carried out some of Paul's toughest assignments. He had a letter to be delivered to the Roman Christians. It must be delivered by a trusted bearer. It appears he asked Phoebe to carry it. No flights to schedule, no cars to drive, Cenchrea was a long way from Rome—over land and sea and land again. We don't know how Phoebe did it. We just know the letter was delivered.

Priscilla, and her husband Aquila, were tentmakers and teachers. Priscilla taught Apollos, who became a great leader. The couple's home became a church house in Ephesus and later in Rome.

Phillip had four unmarried daughters. They had the honor and privilege of working with their father and other great Christians of their time in Jerusalem, Samaria and Caesarea. They were referred to as prophetesses. They became church planters in their day. They reached. They taught. They ministered.

William Carey from Modern History

Centuries passed. In England William Carey worked at his cobbler's bench, day after day. With a crude map made from scraps of leather before him, he became concerned for the heathen in far off India. He tried to find support for sending a missionary there to tell people about Jesus, but his message fell on deaf ears. The church leaders of the day rebuked him, insisting that if God wanted the people of India saved He would do it Himself.

But there was a woman, the Widow Wallis, of Kettering, England,

who opened her home to a small group of thirteen people who were concerned for the “heathen” in India. At that meeting an offering was taken in a snuff box, and \$65 was received toward the expense of sending William Carey to India to preach the gospel. This woman encourager was used of God in her day, and thus began the modern missionary movement as we know it today—the continuation of the Book of Acts.

The reality of God’s presence in the lives of women, their careful study of His commands recorded in the pages of their New Testaments, along with the strong, unmistakable leading of the Holy Spirit, gave rise to a mighty moving force for missions.

The first response of American Baptists to foreign mission needs awakened by William Carey was an increased interest in the unsaved people who lived near at hand—the Indians (Native Americans). Among the early societies organized for this purpose was the Baptist Philanthropic Missionary Society of North Carolina, begun in 1805. (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 30.)

Mary Webb

In 1800 Mary Webb was a young woman in Boston confined to a wheelchair. She read a sermon based on 2 Chronicles 15:7, “Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded.” Her handicap did not stop her. She enlisted other women to share her vision for missions. She was a member of Second Baptist Church of Boston, and seven other Baptist women joined her, along with six Congregationalist women, to form the Boston Female Society for Missionary Purposes.

She stirred the women of Boston to pray, to give money, to knit socks and to sew barrels of clothing for the mission fields. William Carey was among those who received their aid. In time, the Baptist members outgave the Congregationalists and the organization became a Baptist organization. (Catherine B. Allen, *A Century to Celebrate: History of Woman’s Missionary Union*, Birmingham, Alabama: Woman’s Missionary Union, 1987, 16.)

The influence of Mary Webb reached down the East Coast, informing and teaching women about missions, reaching them for mission involvement at home and encouraging their support for missions away from home. Letters were written, and word was spread through interested friends from state to state.

Luther Rice

The State of North Carolina was included in the travels of Luther Rice, a foreign missionary turned “circuit rider” seeking missions support in the early 1800s.

Adoniram and Ann Judson

Adoniram and Ann Hasseltine Judson, as well as Luther Rice who traveled separately, had gone to Burma in 1812 under the support of the Congregationalists. Driven by strong conviction “that is almost beyond comprehension,” the three separated themselves from that support and became Baptists. (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 31.)

Left without support of the Congregationalists, Rice returned to America to gather support for missions for the Judsons and others whom he felt would need to follow them.

He traveled 8,000 miles a year up and down the Eastern Seaboard in a horse-drawn vehicle known as a gig. Rice saw the tremendous potential in organizations of women and children who responded to his messages with interest and enthusiasm.

Rice began organizing and encouraging the organization of Children’s Cent Societies and Female Mite Societies, “suited to the ability of the women, who did not hold the purse-strings of the day.” (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 18.)

God did more than Luther Rice ever dreamed or imagined in the days and years that followed.

Fannie E. S. Heck wrote in *Royal Service*:

On some unmarked mile between Richmond and Petersburg over which Mr. Rice passed during his first missionary tour, he dreamed a wonderful dream of a missionary future. It was no less than the plan which today exists in our mission work: the Church—the Association—the State Convention—all interested in missions, each appointing delegates to an ever-widening organization until the whole culminates in a great society or convention for missions.” (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*,

Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 39.)

Few records were kept of women's work in the early years, although we do have evidence of the existence of organized work for missions. Perhaps the first organized society in North Carolina was in Beulah Association, known then as County Line Association, called the Hyco Female Cent Society. According to the *History of Woman's Missionary Union of Beulah Association*, by Mrs. W. O. Garrett, this society was organized in 1792, only a few years after William Carey had gone to India. Mrs. Garrett recorded:

Carrying on this society took great courage and prayer, as the brethren were still in the dark as to whether the call to work openly in the Master's Vineyard was meant for females as well as males. This opposition brought these dear women to their knees in prayer for divine guidance, strength and courage to continue. It would be a tremendous value to us to have the names of these early pioneers who courageously blazed the trail in that far off day. (Mrs. W. O. Garrett, *History of Woman's Missionary Union of Beulah Association*, Unpublished, 1951, 1.)

Beulah Association originally embraced Caswell, Person, Orange, Rockingham, Stokes, and Forsyth counties and part of Guilford County.

Seventy-two organizations were reported in North Carolina in 1816. Also listed at that time was the Female Baptist Missions Society near Fayetteville, one of the earliest.

Luther Rice reported in a letter from Washington, dated April 25, 1822:

A female society has been formed in Richmond (now Scotland) County, North Carolina, under circumstances that promise usefulness. This was effected by the zeal and piety of a solitary female, and if but one such female could be found in every church, hundreds of similar societies might be originated. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1952).

Catharine Campbell White

The "solitary female" was Mrs. Catharine Campbell White, wife of

Daniel White, a self-appointed and self-supported missionary from Scotland. Catharine was the daughter of wealthy Scotch parents with a generous dowry. The couple bought land, built a home and had their family in Richmond County. Having felt called to preach and minister among the many people who had come from Scotland and settled in North Carolina, David White preached and organized churches.

Catharine organized a Female Mite Society and a Children's Cent Society, inspired by a visit from Luther Rice. These groups met regularly for study and prayer. In order that the women might have money to give, Catharine sold whatever they brought: butter, eggs, milk, fruit, and garden produce. A hotel in the nearest town bought the products. From the children she bought the walnuts and broom straw they gathered, and she paid them for doing odd jobs in her house and yard.

This women's society, known as the Spring Hill Female Mite Society, was credited on April 2, 1822, by the treasurer of the Triennial Convention with a contribution of \$18.30. The society at Edenton contributed \$25.00 per year.

The names of only a few women appear in early records. Perhaps that is well since there would never be any way to know the unnumbered, unrecognized, and often unknown participants throughout the new world who from their limited resources managed to fund support for missions. Many of these may well be the "greats" in the Kingdom, with the full extent of their sacrifices and ministry and witness known only to God.

In Eastern Association, Wells Chapel, Route 1, Wallace organized a Women's Society in 1824. The church records indicate the church had always been focused on missions, starting new churches and training its young people, and that the women were prayerful supporters "of all work done by each man."

The church history recorded in 1824 that the ladies were anxious to be heard and the conference that year included a vote to "give privilege of having a Woman's Missionary Society at this place." The women got busy in 1825. The men gave the reports to the church and association each year, but women were praised for acts of missions. (Mary Jane Bland, *History of Wells Chapel Church*, Unpublished, 1985).

In 1829, according to the *History of Grassy Creek Church*, by R. I. Davis, a missionary society was formed in Grassy Creek Baptist Church in the Flat River Association. It gave \$100 for missions that year.

First Convention of North Carolina Baptists

In the first annual session of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, 1831, the Female Benevolent Society of Raleigh, comprised of women who never lost the missionary spirit from the days of Luther Rice's visits, the societies of Bethel and Cape Fear were represented by 37 delegates. Patrick W. Dowde, representative of the Raleigh Society, was president of the Convention.

In recalling the work of the women in those early days, Miss Heck wrote, "We must not fail to speak of the greatest mission work ever done by any class of American women—the work of Southern women among their slaves." (R. I. Davis, *History of Grassy Creek Church*, the book is in the public library in Oxford, North Carolina and in the library of the Oxford Baptist Church.)

In a convention of Southern white men, an African American, seated in the rear of the building asked to speak. "I will tell you who were the first missionaries to the Negroes. They were their white mistresses." (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 63.)

Interest in the conversion of the African Americans antedates any form of missionary society. Nineteenth century Priscillas, by the thousands, quietly but persistently provided examples of Christian living in word and deed, spending many Sunday afternoons teaching both children and adults. Along with the Christian masters for whom they worked, millions of African Americans in the South came to the day of their freedom as Christians. Several older churches in Eastern North Carolina set aside areas in the church or balcony to provide seating for them. (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 64.)

Mattie Heck

In April 1877, the Foreign Mission Board, Dr. H. A. Tupper, president, appointed a Woman's Central Committee of North Carolina. Mrs. J. M. Heck, mother of Fannie E. S. Heck, was elected president; Mrs. A. M. Lewis, vice-president; Mrs. T. F. Mahler, secretary; Mrs. J. C. Scarborough, corresponding secretary; Mrs. T. H. Pritchard, treasurer.

Mrs. J. M. (Mattie) Heck, a very able person, was the wife of Colonel Jonathan Heck. Colonel Heck had been a successful young attorney in Morgantown, West Virginia. During the Civil War, Morgantown citizens

sympathized with the United States while Jonathan Heck leaned toward the South. He joined the Confederate troops as a lieutenant colonel and was sent by Robert E. Lee to equip a Virginia regiment. He made business and manufacturing contacts throughout the South and proved the skill that made him a wealthy man. After the war he saw opportunities in the New South and took his family to Raleigh, North Carolina.

In Raleigh, Colonel Heck built a fine house for \$45,000 on Blount Street. Mattie Heck was recognized as a leader among the women. Being a woman of financial means, she always had help in the home to meet the needs of her rapidly growing family. Her husband encouraged her to enjoy public life and provided her with a handsome enclosed carriage for all-weather travel.

In 1876 she was named Regent to represent North Carolina at the United States Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the government's first recognition of woman's work as a factor in public welfare.

It was also in 1876 that Dr. H. A. Tupper visited in the Heck home and secured Mattie to head the first attempt at a statewide woman's central committee for the promotion of foreign missions among Baptists in North Carolina.

At the meeting of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in November 1877, Dr. T. H. Pritchard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Raleigh, presented a resolution commending the work of the Woman's Committee. At the end of seven or eight months of work, there were seventeen societies and more than \$300 raised. The approval the women anticipated never came. Instead, Miss Heck wrote:

A very storm of discussion between the brethren who favored encouraging women in mission endeavor and those who opposed rose to such a height that the little bark, the unwitting cause of the storm, was crippled and sank out of sight. (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 105.)

The women in North Carolina continued to meet and work as they had before: to pray, to study, to bring their gifts, and to minister. Money received was given to the church treasurers to send to the boards of the convention.

The Work Grows

Women throughout the South were continuing to respond to missions needs as they understood God's call to their lives. There was an early hint of a coordinating organization or a Central Committee, as suggested by the Committee on Women's Work. The purpose of such a person or organization would be to combine their efforts, to stimulate the work, and to give a permanent record to their successes. In 1881 the Committee on Women's Work suggested to the Foreign Mission Board that they appoint a woman as superintendent of Women's Work. When this was not done the request was made the next year to both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. When this had not been done by the third year, the request was made to the Home Mission Board. The Home Mission Board responded, asking that the work among women on behalf of missions be strengthened in every way possible.¹²

What seemed like a reasonable request to the Convention brought on a storm of debate.

One man said, "I do believe it is the entering wedge to women's rights or platform speaking, therefore, I am opposed." (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 111.) One speaker declared that if "they did not permit the women to work with them they would work without them."

An editor, reporting on the meeting, wrote:

It was claimed that this would lead to the establishment of a separate organization and conduce to women's rights. It is far more likely that such an organization will be formed in case this measure is not carried out. They have started this great work and no power under heaven can stop them. (Fannie E. S. Heck, *In Royal Service*, Richmond, Virginia: Educational Department, Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, 1928, 112.)

The following poem was found in the 1986 files:

"Those women don't know what they are doing."
Some said it.
Even more let it pass through their heads.
"It won't work! (at least, I hope not) others thought.

Others wouldn't even admit such an idea existed.
And on and on it went.

The year was 1886.
Those women never dreamed
People would still be talking about it today.
All they did was meet and form an organization
To unite the women of North Carolina in a worldwide cause:
That at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow and every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

They really didn't know what they did that day.
But many people today do,
And thank them for it.
Because those women had a heart for the world,
All these years later
Women are still carrying on the tradition
Of prayer, involvement, sacrifice, stewardship.
But it is more than a tradition.
It's a way of life
That reflects that the message of Jesus
Is important enough to go to the nations
And nooks and crannies of the world.

Sometimes we really don't know what we're doing.
We may not ever know
About the life that changes because we prayed:
The missionary who decides to try once more;
The woman who hears about Christ
And decides not to give up;
The family that struggles to stay together...and does;
The hungry person who eats because we care.

God doesn't call us to keep records on ourselves.
He calls us to go, and He keeps the records.
He calls us to pray, and He brings the results.
He calls us to give, and He multiplies it.
'WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD!'
He said it! We do it!

Author Unknown

CHAPTER TWO

For Ye Serve the Lord Christ

1886-1915

Fannie E. S. Heck

Dr. Theodore Whitfield, vice president of the Foreign Mission Board and pastor of First Baptist Church, New Bern, N.C., continued to feel women should be organized for missions. He went to Raleigh on January 5, 1886, to talk with officers of the State Board of Missions.

Dr. Whitfield stayed in the home of Dr. C. T. Bailey, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*. The next morning they went together to the home of Colonel and Mrs. J. M. Heck for the purpose of asking Miss Fannie Heck, the 24-year-old daughter in the home, for her consent to be the president of a Woman's Central Committee of Missions, this committee to be appointed by the State Missions Board. Miss Heck consented to serve and suggested Sallie Bailey, the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Bailey, be asked to serve as corresponding secretary. Miss Bailey consented to serve as requested in the new organization.

The State Mission Board made the following appointments to the committee: Fannie E. S. Heck, President; Sallie Bailey, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer; Lida McDaniel, Recording Secretary. Ladies from two churches in Raleigh, First Baptist and Tabernacle Baptist, were appointed: Mrs. T. E. Skinner, wife of pastor of First Baptist Church, Mrs. W. A. Nelson, wife of pastor of Tabernacle Church, Mrs. John E. Ray, Mrs. T. H. Briggs, Mrs. N. B. Broughton, Mrs. R. G. Lewis, Mrs. G. W. Swepson, Mrs. W. H. Pace (Miss Heck's sister), Mrs. J. M. Barbee, Miss Maggie Perry, Mrs. M. T. Norris and Mrs. T. D. Ray.

January 8, 1886, proved to be an historic day. The Woman's Central

Committee of Missions held its initial meeting in the office of the editor of the *Biblical Recorder* on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh. Dr. Bailey kindly vacated his office to provide room for the meeting. There are no minutes of this meeting or other meetings before 1905.

It should be noted the history of Woman's Missionary Union and *Biblical Recorder* have been entwined, with much of the information about the progress of missions through women's organizations being faithfully reported and encouraged on the pages of the *Biblical Recorder*.

Fannie E. S. Heck was the second of ten children who grew to adulthood in the family of Colonel Jonathan McGee Heck and Mattie A. Callendine Heck. During the war years, probably because of Colonel Heck's status, his beloved wife was allowed to move closer to him in several locations where he was serving. While they were at Buffalo Lithia Springs, a Virginia resort, Fannie was born June 16, 1862. Mattie Heck gave her daughter the middle name of Exile because of the circumstances of her birth. Fannie later added another name, Scudder, in recognition of missionaries in another branch of her family.

Fannie Exile Heck grew up in Raleigh and attended Professor Hobgood's Seminary for young women and Hollins College in Virginia. Until she responded to the challenges of mission leadership, Fannie had led an ornamental life. She was a crack shot; an expert horsewoman; an accomplished needle woman; a skilled wood carver; an artist with brush, pen and scissors; and inventor of at least two items. (Ethlene Boone Cox, *Following In His Train*, Nashville: Convention Press, 1938, 64.) During her late teen years, Fannie Heck responded to God's call and became a member of First Baptist Church, Raleigh.



Fannie Heck, President,
1886-1915

Fannie and her neighbor-friend, Sallie Bailey, became involved in working together in a little mission Sunday School of their church located across the railroad tracks. They visited house to house, inviting and encouraging attendance. Observing the needs of the people, they solicited clothing from friends in their church. The mission Sunday School grew in numbers, and fathers and

mothers came with the children. There were many conversions. Colonel Heck was so impressed by the work the young ladies were doing that he provided a co-worker to drive one of his fine carriage horses for their "community missions" efforts.

The ministry of these young women spread to the "red-light district" of the city. Amid protests of those concerned for their safety, the young women continued to minister materially and spiritually to the people in that disreputable part of the city. The two were unharmed and the people were blessed. The friends had no idea God would use them to reach people for Him through ministry and witness beyond the boundaries of Raleigh, North Carolina. Their commitment to God and His purposes for their lives meant there were no limits to what God might be doing in His world. Only God could know His larger purposes for them and the thousands of women who would follow their leadership.

Following the historic January 8, 1886 meeting of the Women's Central Committee of Missions, Miss Heck asked the 16-year-old Sallie Bailey to select a motto for the new organization. After a prayerful search of the Scriptures, Miss Bailey was led to Colossians 3:24: "For ye serve the Lord Christ."

This watchword expressed the supreme motive for the women of that day and has been the North Star to guide women through misunderstandings and opposition since that day.

In an annual address delivered by Miss Heck, she said fourteen of the societies of the first organizations started in 1877 were successfully continued in the newly approved work of the women. Excerpts from that message follow:

Then began a vigorous campaign of organization, and at the close of the Convention year in November 1886, the Committee reported seventy-four societies organized...and in 1887 when our second report was made, seventy-one more societies had been added....Growth in contributions kept pace with growth in numbers. By reference to the reports of the treasurer of the State Convention for the year 1884-85 it was found that \$500 had been acknowledged as received from Woman's Missionary Societies. The first year's report of the Central Committee (November 1886) shows this amount doubled, the Societies having given \$1,000.95. The next year the increase was nearly as great...\$1,718.46. But here, for a time, the great advance

from year to year rested...Though apparent growth was not so great the years 1887 to 1891, the work was casting deep roots into the affections of the Baptists of North Carolina. Some had feared this movement among the women, and more had stood aside to see it work itself out. Gradually those who had feared became those who encouraged, and those who had been onlookers became those who aided. (Mrs. W. C. James, *Fannie E. S. Heck: A Study of the Hidden Springs in a Rarely Useful and Victorious Life*, Nashville: Broadman Press, 1939, 41.)

The State Mission Board provided a modest sum for printing and postage. The organization did not have office space or equipment. All correspondence was written by hand. The addressing, wrapping and mailing of quarterly material, such as letters from Miss Heck, leaflets, samples of mite boxes, envelopes and special program materials were done in the homes of the officers. Several young girls assisted at such busy times, among them Miss Susan Clark (Mrs. J. E. Erwin), Miss Bertha Hicks (Mrs. J. Clyde Turner), and Miss Susan Heck (Mrs. D. Alphonso Smith). Miss Heck and the committee began a small monthly publication, *Missionary Talk*, which carried program outlines, an editorial, announcements, letters from societies, and a list of new societies. Miss Heck felt the necessity of providing this monthly help. There were no prepared programs, no mission study books, and little source for missionary information. This publication served its purpose. In 1895 *Missionary Talk* was discontinued when the *Biblical Recorder* allotted a column to the Woman's Missionary Department.

The history of First Baptist Church in Raleigh relates that in November 1886, Mrs. J. A. Briggs organized in her home a Children's Band called Mission Workers. In 1888 the name was changed to Sunbeam Band and Mrs. T. H. Briggs had charge of the missionary programs. In 1894 the Band was reorganized under the name of Yates Mission Band with 28 boys and girls enrolled as members. The report of the Board showed the rules adopted:

1. Good behavior in God's house.
2. Attendance and attention at the meeting.
3. Be willing workers.

In North Carolina the Central Committee had promoted the work of the Children's Societies, or Sunbeam Bands, so there was no change when Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention,

assumed responsibility for Sunbeam Band work in 1896 at the request of the Foreign Mission Board. Sunbeam Bands in the state for a number of years had a wide range of ages. Some people today remember being in the Sunbeam Band until well into their teens. They learned to pray for missions, studied about missions, and had a part in giving to help spread the gospel. "Dollar Sunbeams" were sometimes listed in the *Biblical Recorder*. These were Sunbeams who had given a dollar during a three month period. Among those appeared the names of two who would later become president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina: Mrs. Mabel Claire H. Maddrey and Mrs. Bernice A. Cross.

Another celebrated date is May 11, 1888. On that date Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in Broad Street Methodist Church in Richmond, Virginia. The two-year-old North Carolina Committee was not one of the "ten heroic and historic states" that voted for the organization on that day. According to Miss Heck's writings,

North Carolina is represented by two lookers-on. They have been instructed by the State Board of Missions to take no part in the counsels nor to ally themselves with this new movement, which may prove a danger...thus instructed and warned they sit silent, while the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, soon to be the praise of all lovers of missions, comes into being. (Foy Johnson Farmer, *Hitherto*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina Auxiliary to the Baptist State Convention, 1939, 10.)

Two years later the North Carolina Committee was instructed, and given permission, to fall into line. In a letter written by Annie W. Armstrong, Corresponding Secretary, Miss Heck was notified of action taken that day, December 11, 1890, welcoming the Central Committee of North Carolina, "completing the whole number of states comprised within the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention." Since that time North Carolina women have kept steady step with Baptist women of the South and have often given the out front leadership that has clearly influenced the direction and decisions that have impacted the world for Christ. The *Biblical Recorder* of April 22, 1891 carried this note:

The Woman's Missionary Union holds its annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala., during the meeting of the Southern Baptist

Convention. This is the first year of North Carolina's union with this body, and this meeting is, therefore, of especial interest to us. We are entitled to four delegates to the meeting to be appointed by the Central Committee. (Foy Johnson Farmer, *Hitherto*, 12.)

The delegates appointed reflect the effort to have representation from different areas of the state: Mrs. N. F. Williams, Wilmington; Miss Hattie Mitchell, Henderson; Mrs. S. P. Smith, Charlotte; and Miss Fannie E. Heck, Raleigh.

At the Birmingham meeting North Carolina reported the following: 148 societies; total gifts to missions \$2,054.81.

The first Annual Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Societies of North Carolina was held in St. Paul Methodist Church, Goldsboro, November 11-12, 1891. Publicity for this meeting was given in the *Biblical Recorder* and included the following information:

For the entertainment of the ladies coming as representatives to this meeting, the Hospitality Committee has kindly provided fifty homes, and made especial rates of \$1 per day at the hotels and boarding houses. Each society is entitled to but one. (Foy Johnson Farmer, *Hitherto*, 21.)

Three missions emphases appeared in the report of that meeting: support of the Cuban School Fund, boxes for Home Missionaries, and the expense fund of the Central Committee for postage, printing, report blanks, and publication of *Missionary Talk*. It was recommended that a nickel per member per year be given.

The annual meeting in 1892 was held at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Raleigh. It was a meeting celebrating the Centennial year of modern missions, William Carey having gone to India one hundred years earlier. The meeting was in sharp contrast to the first annual meeting, which had a limited number of representatives in attendance. The church was crowded and "the women gave as they had never dreamed of giving before, sparing neither money nor jewels" in response to the pleas of Dr. F. M. Ellis. One young woman came forward to accept Christ. (Foy Johnson Farmer, *Hitherto*, 19.)

Response to the annual meetings varied from year to year, some years with joy and others with disappointment. However, the women under Miss Heck's leadership continued to move with dignity and firm

purpose. In the 1896 annual meeting Miss Heck introduced Miss Lizzie (Elizabeth) Briggs of Raleigh as Children's Mission Band Superintendent. Miss Briggs took over the "Children's Corner" (later called Sunbeam Corner) in the *Biblical Recorder*, her first column appearing November 15, 1896. This column contained outlines for programs for monthly meetings, appropriate stories and poems, letters from missionaries, and other helps.

In this tenth year of work, more than 250 societies reported an increase in giving. A marked feature of this tenth year was the completion of the Yates Memorial Fund, an extra offering of more than \$1,200 to send a new missionary to China as a living memorial to Dr. and Mrs. Matthew T. Yates. Mrs. Eliza Mooring (Matthew T.) Yates was the first woman from North Carolina to be appointed a missionary by the Foreign Mission Board, having been appointed in 1846. Mr. T. C. Britton, accompanied by his wife, left for China on January 12, 1897, as the Yates Memorial Missionary. Two years later, the North Carolina Baptist women, with another extra fund, returned Miss Lottie Price to her field in China as the "Mrs. Yates Memorial Missionary." (Bernice A. Cross, *History of North Carolina WMU*, Written for 1986 WMU Centennial observance, 1986, 3.)

Just as Rice had suggested, the Baptist associations became the link between the state organization and the churches. Associational vice-presidents (now called WMU Directors), have been of immeasurable importance in the growth of the missionary work in North Carolina.

In 1894 the State Board of Missions, at the request of the Central Committee, appointed 35 vice presidents whose duties were to organize new societies and maintain the old ones throughout their associations. In the *Biblical Recorder* of February 22, 1899, Miss Heck wrote:

Let me say again, as I have often said before, that an earnest active associational vice-president may accomplish a mighty work for good. What she does is not determined by her field so much as by earnestness and perseverance.

Again, on October 5, 1904, she emphasized their value: "The first duty of a vice-president who cannot work is to resign." (Bernice A. Cross, *History of North Carolina WMU*, Written for 1986 WMU Centennial observance, 1986, 3.)

Baptist Female University (Meredith College)

The year 1899 was highly significant as it marked the opening of the long anticipated, prayed for, and worked for, senior college for women, the Baptist Female University (now Meredith College) in Raleigh. Miss Heck had been an encourager and moving force back of the establishment of the school, working long and hard to help bring it about. However, she refused to accept the official position which was offered her with the new school. She stated that she would instead continue to focus her energies on missions. She continued to stay close to the school and involved in its activities, often participating both on campus and through inviting students to her home. As soon as the college was opened a Woman's Missionary Society was organized with Miss Margaret Shields (Mrs. S. J. Everett) of Scotland Neck as president.

As an expression of appreciation for the new school, the Baptist State Convention of 1899 passed a resolution:

That the Baptist State Convention express its high appreciation of the faithful and efficient and self-denying service rendered by Miss Fannie S. Heck in securing funds for the Baptist Female University, and that we heartily commend her to the sympathy and cooperation of all our people. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 25)



In 1928 the Woman's Missionary Union placed a fountain in the center of the court at Meredith College in memory of Fannie E. S. Heck and her efforts on behalf of the college.

In 1928 the Woman's Missionary Union placed a fountain in the center of the court at Meredith College in memory of Fannie E. S. Heck and her efforts on behalf of the college. In 1986 North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union (NCWMU) refurbished and revisited the fountain as a part of its Centennial Celebration.

Volunteer Teachers Sent to Mountain Areas

At the Annual WMU Meeting in Asheville in December 1899, the women adopted a resolution to send volunteer teachers to the mountain areas where educational opportunities were very limited because of bad roads and few schools. In the summer of 1900, seventeen volunteer teachers, serving without financial compensation, taught in churches, in school rooms where available, or under the trees. There were 772 enrolled in sixteen schools in eight counties: Cherokee, Alexander, Madison, Buncombe, Allegheny, Ashe, Wake and Wilkes, with an average attendance per school of thirty. The traveling expenses, averaging about \$15 per teacher, were paid by the Union. The communities furnished room and board. The volunteers taught regular studies of primary and elementary grades during the week and used every opportunity to engage the women and children in Christian service. Two Sunday Schools and seven women and children's societies were organized.

The results were so gratifying that the Central Committee called for fifty volunteers for the summer of 1901. When the public schools became available in the communities, the volunteer teachers were no longer needed. In a personal note before the script for "A Woman of Character," a playlet about Miss Heck that was written by Miriam Robinson, Miss Robinson said, "My mother (from Wake County) was one of the summer school teachers working under Miss Heck's supervision in Yancey County...where she met and married my father. Mother's diary records some of the mountain school experiences. She told me others."

Central Committee/Baptist State Convention

A note attached to the Constitution in 1900 clearly defined the relationship of the Central Committee to the Baptist State Convention.

The Central Committee is appointed by the State Board of Missions, which is appointed by the Baptist State Convention.

The Central Committee is thus a Committee of the Convention, and as such reports to it.

It is recorded in many places where officers are listed that "all these ladies serve without compensation, the only expense of the Committee being for postage and stationery."

Calendar of Prayer

In 1903, under Miss Heck's leadership, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina began a missionary calendar. This plan, used in the state, developed into the Calendar of Prayer published in 1908 by the Southern Union. Four years later the Calendar of Prayer became a regular feature in *Royal Service*.

Separate Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Societies in North Carolina was held at the same time and in the same city as the Baptist State Convention meeting until 1906. The first separate Annual Meeting was held in First Baptist Church of Durham, April 10-12, 1906, twenty years after the appointment of the Woman's Central Committee of Missions.

In preparation for this anniversary meeting, each member of the Committee had been asked to bring a written suggestion of one thing she felt would add most to the success of the first separate annual meeting. Mrs. Walter Clarke wrote:

The suggestion that I would make is that this shall be a meeting in which especial emphasis shall be placed on the fact that the ultimate end and object of all plans shall be the saving of souls...Shall we not more than ever make prayer the key note of the coming meeting...prayer that each woman in each missionary society shall feel herself in the coming year a self-constituted missionary...first in her own home, then to her neighbors and those around her, then to the church, the State and the world." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 28)

The long anticipated day arrived. Pastors and deacons of the Baptist churches in Durham waited at the railroad station to welcome between 125-150 delegates. The report of the meeting said: "Eight o'clock saw the

large church more than full, the citizens at large being invited to the night sessions that were turned over to the brethren, no women taking part."

At this 1906 meeting the name of the North Carolina organization was officially changed from "Annual Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Societies of the Baptist Churches in North Carolina" to "Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Baptist State Convention." Until this time the officers of the Central Committee had been appointed by the State Board of Missions and were elected on the first day of the meeting to serve only during that Annual Meeting. The new constitution provided that the officers of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina be elected on the last day to serve for one year. It was an historic meeting, and it was reported as being one of deep spiritual power.

Even in the early days Miss Heck had felt the need for more help in organizing for missions, and expressed the conviction of the Woman's Central Committee: "For a long time the Central Committee had felt that the women's mission would be greatly advanced if someone could give her entire time to visiting, encouraging old societies, and organizing new ones."

In 1905, Mrs. C. M. V. Follett of Durham, vice president of Mt. Zion Association, was asked to give full time to the work although the Central Committee did not know how her salary would be met. Mrs. Follett agreed for her expenses to be paid, but she would not accept a salary. Her traveling expenses were met by special contributions from the societies. At the end of the year she reported 1,600 miles of travel in North Carolina by rail, steamer, launch, buggy and stage, and the organization of ninety new societies. Mrs. Follett served less than two years. Another year passed before a full time salaried field worker was employed. Four young women, all graduates of the Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville, Kentucky, served in succession for brief periods.

In 1907, Mrs. Hight C. Moore was elected corresponding secretary, with a microscopic salary. She also assumed responsibility for editing the WMU page in the *Biblical Recorder*, which until that time had been done by Miss Heck. After serving as corresponding secretary for four years she resigned, but continued as editor another eight years, until 1915. At that time "editor" became part of the secretary's assignment.

Interest in missions increased steadily with more women and children, including boys, becoming involved. Young women who felt they were too old for Sunbeams began to meet separately in some churches for study,

prayer and service. In 1907, when an organization called Young Woman's Auxiliary was officially made a member of Southern Union, North Carolina already had a fine group of Young Ladies' Societies. A few boys' bands existed at this time.

Because of her interest and vision, Miss Heck was appointed chairman of a committee on Work for Boys. As a result, the Order of Royal Ambassadors came into being in the Annual Meeting of WMU, SBC, in May 1908. Mrs. Pettway, from Goldsboro, North Carolina was present at the meeting. She cut short her trip and hurried home to organize the first Royal Ambassador chapter in the Southern Baptist Convention, at Goldsboro, and named it the Carey Newton Chapter.

The younger members of Young Woman's Auxiliary soon wanted to have an organization of their own. Therefore, Junior YWA'S became Girls' Auxiliary. At this point Woman's Missionary Union was fully graded with mission opportunities for all ages. North Carolina provided leadership and encouragement to the churches and associations in their efforts to provide expanding missionary education.

Blanche Barrus

In 1911 Miss Blanche Barrus, newly graduated from Meredith College, was elected corresponding secretary of North Carolina WMU. After five years she resigned to prepare herself as a physician to work in India, having clearly felt God's call to that country. Because Southern Baptists had no work in India she applied and was appointed to a responsible position in a women's medical college in India. It was said of her, "she was radiantly happy." After graduating from the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, she was completing her internship when she became seriously ill. She completed her medical requirements, but returned to her home in Eastern North Carolina before she died. She said, "It is all in our Father's hands, and I know it is for some good purpose." A friend who knew her from childhood paid tribute:

She was beautiful, without vanity; learned, without conceit; cultured, without pride; and a Christian in the fullness of faith and love...As she looked into the busy world, she saw not what her wonderful talents would bring her, but how much of self she could give. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1952, 67)

In 1913 WMU, SBC, celebrated its 25th anniversary—the Jubilate. Miss Heck was asked to write a hymn especially for the women.

On a train between Petersburg and Raleigh, on the back of a used envelope, Miss Heck wrote the words of *The Woman's Hymn*, much loved by the women through the years.

The Woman's Hymn

(Tune: Italian Hymn)

Come, women, wide proclaim

Life through your Saviour slain;

Sing evermore.

Christ, God's effulgence bright,

Christ, who arose in might,

Christ who crowns you with light,

Praise and adore.

Come, clasping children's hands,

Sisters from many lands,

Teach to adore,

For the sinsick and worn,

All who in darkness mourn,

Pray, work, yet more.

Work with your courage high,

Sing of the daybreak nigh,

Your love outpour.

Stars shall your crown adorn

Your hearts leap with the morn

And, by His love up-borne,

Hope and adore.

Then when the garnered field

Shall to our Master yield

A bounteous store,

Christ, hope of all the meek,

Christ, whom all earth should seek,

Christ your reward shall speak,

Joy ever more.

(Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 31)

Jubilate meetings were held in local societies and associations throughout the state. At the 1913 annual meeting 600 delegates were present, with increases being noted in all areas of work.

Fannie Heck served as president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina for 29 years. During that time she also served fifteen years as president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. North Carolina benefited from the trail-blazing leadership of Miss Heck while providing a proving ground for her ideas, many of which she found could be used in the bigger arena. Indeed, history records that North Carolina was the first state to initiate numerous new emphases and efforts that were later adopted by Southern Union.

In the book, *Laborers Together With God*, Catherine Allen refers to an undated manuscript and the following characterization by Mrs. C. Alphonso Smith, of her sister, Fannie Heck:

Miss Heck had the following of a charismatic leader...She was a skilled and graceful presiding officer, with a resonant voice which carried across large audiences. Her mellow tones could touch the emotions, while her strong content and clever delivery touched the intellect. She gestured gracefully with beautiful hands. (Catherine Allen, *Laborers Together With God*, Birmingham, Alabama: Woman's Missionary Union, 1987, 30.)

North Carolina WMU, as well as the Southern Union, reelected Miss Heck as president in the spring of 1915, even though they knew she would not be able physically to assume the burden of the office. They felt no other leader could be chosen "as long as Miss Heck lived on earth."

From her hospital bed in Richmond, Virginia, Miss Heck sent white roses to the women meeting in annual session in New Bern, April 1915, to remind them of her love. Miss Blanche Barrus, then serving as corresponding secretary, read her last message to them. The original copy hangs in the WMU office in Cary. Following are excerpts from the letter:

I can see your faces now shining with tears of joy, as I have seen them often in the past. I can hear your voices ring as I have heard them ring with praise until they seemed to mingle with an invisible choir. I can feel your handclasp as of old, warm with our love to our Master. They have been the indissoluble bonds of our Union.

Since this is so, I do not fear to leave you. I can dream of your future with a trusting heart.

Changes will come: new faces take the place of old; new and broader plans succeed those of today, but our beloved Union is safe in our Master's care.

See to it, only, that you listen to His voice and follow where Christ leads.

Be gentle in your personal lives, faithful and shining.

Be joyful, knowing His purposes are good, not evil, to His children.

Be prayerful in your planning.

Be patient and persistent in your fulfillment.

Endeavor to see the needs of the world from God's standpoint.

Plan not for the year, but for the years.

Think long thoughts.

Strive for the conversion of those around you as faithfully as for the heathen.

Train the children for worldwide service.

Lead the young women gently into places of joyous responsibility.

Bring all your powers into the best service of the best King.

Thus shall your work abide and be abundantly blessed of God to your own joy and the joy of the world...

(Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 33-34)

In the summer of 1915 Miss Heck was brought back from Richmond, where she had been hospitalized, to her home in Raleigh. Here her family and close friends surrounded her and she was "upborne by prayers of Christians in every land in which the influence of Woman's Missionary Union had been felt." Her own heartfelt prayer seemed to be expressed in one of the last of many poems which she wrote:

Lord, grant me if thou wilt
To slip away
As slips the night
Into the dawning gray,
So soft

That e'en the watchers watching
Cannot say:
"Here ends the night
And here begins the day."
But only know
The night's Thy night,
The day, Thy day.
(Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 38-39)

Many tributes were paid to this first, inimitable leader:

She lives in the hearts of women whom she led into paths of larger service, in the lives of young women to whom she gave a vision of the eternal and unseen things that were the inspiration of her life...The wonderful growth of the Union today is an evidence of the wisdom and skill with which the foundations were being laid. (A person who had worked closely with her.)

If God should raise up some man who could do for his Southern brothers what Fannie Heck did for her sisters in enlightening them concerning the world work of Christ's churches, the ends of the earth would soon feel a new thrill imparted by the enlightened and vitalized churches at home. (Dr. J. F. Love, Foreign Mission Board)

In deliberations about a seemingly hard undertaking we said (to Miss Heck) "How can it be done?"...We met her long, thoughtful gaze, and with deliberate voice she replied, "We will find a way." And so she did, then and always; not simply pointing it out, but leading into it. To her we owe the high standards and better development of all our work. (Miss Ethel Winfield, secretary of literature department, Southern Union)

Miss Mattie Heck, writing in her autobiography, *Cloud and Sunshine*, said of her daughter's leadership, "No minister would now have the courage to take a stand against the Woman's work, in view of what has been accomplished, and the manner in which it has been done. (Mattie A. Heck, *Cloud and Sunshine*, Heck papers, Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1910-1912.)

Mrs. Foy Farmer, writing in *Hitherto*, said: "Miss Heck guided Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina with sure, unerring hand. She planned not for the year, but for the years." Mrs. W. J. Cox wrote of her, "panting time toiled after her in vain." Mrs. Farmer, forty years later, expressed her feeling that the Union had not yet attained all of Miss Heck's dreams and prophecies.

CHAPTER THREE

New Sense of High Calling

1915-1936

Sallie Bailey Jones

Sallie Bailey Jones (Mrs. Walter N.) was elected to the presidency of Woman's Missionary Union North Carolina in the 1916 annual session held in Winston-Salem. Mrs. Jones had been well groomed for the office of president. She had served alongside Miss Heck for 29 years, beginning as 16-year-old Sallie Bailey in the office of corresponding secretary of the Woman's Central Committee of Missions, and as treasurer much of the time. She served on the executive committee from 1886 until her death in 1943. Mrs. Jones was the first to be identified with the dual responsibilities of Secretary-Treasurer.



*Sallie Bailey Jones (Mrs. Walter N.),
President, 1916-1939*

Mrs. Jones's formal education had ended at Richmond Female Institute (now Westhampton College) when she was sixteen, but she never stopped learning. She continued to study and to read. Her father, Dr. C. T. Bailey, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, often discussed denominational matters with her and personally directed her reading. He impressed upon her the importance of clear thinking and of quick and sure decisions. These traits helped to equip her for her many years of leadership.

A friend described the appearance of

young Sallie Bailey. "She was good-looking, not beautiful . . . but really pretty, and her face showed great intelligence. Her heavy braids of blonde hair were carefully arranged. She dressed in good taste and was always well groomed." (Foy Johnson Farmer, *Sallie Bailey Jones*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1949, p. 18.)

A young attorney, Walter N. Jones, returned to Raleigh from Wake Forest College accompanied by high praise and academic success to begin his career in law. He was soon attracted to the lovely Sallie Bailey whom he had met earlier. They were married when she was eighteen years old. Mr. Jones reached a level of success that was rare, while at the same time giving so much of himself to his wife and family and to his church, First Baptist Church of Raleigh.

This is the man who claimed the heart of young Sallie Bailey and it was said that the deep interest and wise counsel of these two extended to every branch of church life and their names will always stand for spiritual development.

How could this new president do all that would be hers to do as she succeeded Miss Heck? With a husband, a fine home always open to guests, and eventually three children, she faced a tremendous challenge. Mrs. Farmer wrote that Mrs. Jones never allowed her extensive mission work and church activities to interfere with her home duties.

Mrs. Jones said she must be more careful than others, for so often women in mission work are accused of neglecting their homes and families. In addition to being a gracious hostess, Mrs. Farmer recorded that the Jones' house was always perfectly kept, even when it was overflowing with children and guests.

It must be said here, women through the years have struggled with these matters, but Mrs. Jones was fortunate enough to always have help. There were admittedly two things she could not do: cook and drive a car. But there was always help in the kitchen and eventually "a house full of car drivers." These limitations were not handicaps to her under these circumstances.

At the annual meeting held in New Bern in 1915, before the death of Miss Heck, Mrs. Jones presented a "Brief History of the Woman's Missionary Union." A year later she presided over the annual meeting and the subject of her address was, "A Forward Look." Although she had a profound appreciation for the past of the Union, it was clear she continually challenged the women to look ahead and look up. She was con-

cerned that she personally would stay close to the Lord for her sense of direction, and this was reflected in her leadership.

Mrs. Jones patterned her years as president in some respects after the role model she had worked under, that is, personally doing a major part of the planning and promotion. Miss Heck and Mrs. Jones had shared a common commitment to missions and the involvement of women. Miss Heck, however, thought long and carefully before making up her mind. She was involved in many civic and cultural organizations and was a prolific writer, producing tracts, leaflets, programs, poetry, and books.

Unlike Miss Heck, Mrs. Jones had heavier home responsibilities. However, she was focused and could say with Paul, "This one thing I do." Under the tutelage and guiding hand of her father she had learned to see through a situation rapidly and arrive quickly at a conclusion. She projected her influence through personal contacts, addresses, counseling, and teaching with an occasional article written for the *Biblical Recorder*.

Not long after Mrs. Jones became president, Southern Baptists launched the 75 Million Campaign—a plan for the expansion of all mission work, at home and overseas. North Carolina WMU was apportioned \$1.1 million to be given over a period of five years. The women of the state pledged more than \$2 million and paid \$1,683,885 within the allotted period, eventually exceeding the goal they had set for themselves. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1952, 43.)

The themes chosen each year for the annual meetings seemed to reflect or focus on events taking place not only in Baptist life but also in the world. Theme for the 1917 meeting in Greensboro was "A Worldwide Missionary Crisis." Mrs. Jones said:

Much of the prosperity that has come in the past has come as the direct result of the godliness and simple faith of our forefathers...If we would meet this crisis (following World War I), we must go back to their simple faith and high ideals—the plain living and high thinking, the absolute trust in God and devotion to His cause. We must be in the world but not of it and must let the light that has come into our own hearts and lives shine so brightly that all may see and know the divine source. May there come to each of us in these days in which we shall talk and plan for the things of the kingdom a new

sense of the privileges of our high calling in Christ Jesus a new determination to spend and be spent in his services, and a greater realization of His Abiding Presence! (Foy Johnson Farmer, *Sallie Bailey Jones*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1949, p. 18.)

Sallie Bailey Jones had a deep, heartfelt desire for growth among the women and children and more effective work in missions. Study was important to this leader. She said, "We must inform our people . . . stories of missionary interest and activity . . . never anything in the history of the world equal to it." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1952, 43.)

She encouraged the women to give their best thought to the monthly program in the societies, mission study classes, reading circles, denominational paper and missionary magazines. She asked the leaders to see that the information was circulated, read and studied, and gave them ideas for making this happen.

To encourage the work in the associations, which she felt essential, she embroidered a white silk banner with yellow thread: "North Carolina WMU—1886, For Ye Serve the Lord Christ." The banner was to be awarded at each annual meeting to the association judged to have made the greatest progress along all lines. This banner was awarded for the first time at the 1918 annual meeting in Asheville.

Eastern Association received the banner for three years, then Central Association (Raleigh, Wake Forest, Youngsville....), South Fork, Mount Zion, Piedmont (twice), Roanoke (twice), Kings Mountain (twice), Tar River and Liberty. This banner was used until Mrs. Jones felt it had served its purpose. Mysteriously, the banner was lost. Miss Annie Bailey Jones, Sallie Bailey Jones' daughter, embroidered a replica to be used at the Golden Jubilee.

In 1919, the president set forth with clarity the relationship of WMU and the church:

No longer can we be satisfied with a church which is 25 percent active in church affairs, and 75 percent inactive, receptive of unnumbered blessings and content to have no part in bringing the world to Christ. . . . In this new day we must have a churchmanship whose faith is a living, glowing reality and we must bring to the careless and indifferent the realization

that they may have a part in God's great plan for the redemption of mankind . . . One life filled with the power of His Spirit, dominated with a purpose to serve, can transform her own church and community. The greatest influence of my life is the influence of example. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, Raleigh, North Carolina: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, 1952, 49.)

Mrs. Jones often spoke of gifts of substance, tithes and offerings, as God's plan for giving. In her 1921 annual address she spoke forcefully about stewardship. She felt the spiritual needs of people were so much greater than their physical needs, but spiritual needs were to be met largely through the use of material gifts, building churches, sending missionaries, equipping schools. She said, "Our ability to consecrate our material possessions is a test of our Christian character." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 51.)

She gave leadership in prayer to the women through her ongoing reliance on prayer in her own life. She said, "Only by listening to His voice can we get the guidance that we need in solving the problems and perplexities that often times are ours. The knowledge of His will comes to us only through prayers." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 54.)

Mrs. Jones knew that the work of the women had been built in prayer. She felt it was only through prayer that there would come power in service. It was only through prayer that lives could be brought into harmony with the Father in heaven and that His Spirit could come into the hearts of the women and equip them for the tasks before them. "Always it has been our experience that the results were largest, not when we are most active, but when we prayed the most." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 54.)

Evidence of a Missions Lifestyle

The women continued faithfully in the study of their Bibles and missions, in giving, in praying and in serving. It became more and more a chosen lifestyle.

The work grew in churches in the open country, the hamlets, villages, towns and cities. No one location or area of the state was more important than the others.

Histories of the churches and associations provide much information to evidence the response of the women. All these cannot be shared, but a few instances can be cited as reminders of what was happening in ever widening circles.

In the First Baptist Church, Whiteville (Columbus Association), the women organized for missions on August 22, 1879, with three charter members: Mrs. S. E. Memory, Mrs. Pink Inman, and Miss Fannnie Memory. When the Southern Baptist Convention met in Wilmington in 1897, the women from the Whiteville church attended the missionary meetings which were held in another auditorium, with Miss Fannie E. S. Heck serving as president and Miss Annie Armstrong serving as secretary. According to the "Brief History of the W.M.S. of Whiteville Baptist Church," on file in the state office of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, the gathering made quite an impression on the women.

This was the greatest inspiration we had ever known. We had a world vision of being co-laborers with God in sending the gospel to heathen lands. We learned better ways of conducting our meetings. No one of us had ever prayed aloud except the Lord's prayer. At our first meeting after coming back from the convention our president, Mrs. J. L. Williamson, led in prayer and said later that she could hear her heart beating, it was such an effort. But by having the chain of prayer in each meeting we all were soon able to pray when called on.

From the same history we learned the following: Mrs. Livingston Johnson (Fannie Memory) gave her choicest corner lot in Whiteville for a parsonage and adjoining this lot she gave two whole blocks on Washington Street to foreign missions, the entire amount of her father's dowry to her. Some thought she should have kept this to educate her children who were all small at the time. However, it was proven in her case that those who put their all in the Lord's treasury never lack for any good thing. Her children all became college graduates—her oldest son, Dr. Wingate N. Johnson of Winston-Salem; Mrs. J. S. Farmer of Raleigh; Mrs. Elbert N. Johnson, Mt. Olive; and Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson of the English Department, Meredith College. The history states:

Not one of our society has measured up to the inspiring faith of this one of our charter members. Her influence for Foreign Missions and all the Lord's work grows steadily with the years.

The Ladies Aid Society of Rosemary Baptist Church in North

Roanoke Association (according to its history in the files of North Carolina WMU) reported on its local ministries in 1891:

. . . nineteen quarts of milk, clothing for three, five talks with unconverted, visits to three Russian families in Patterson Town; octagon soap coupons saved to buy spoons for the church; made up deficiency in church loan; young people sent to retreats and camps and [a] Negro girl sent to Shaw University for a week's training.

Some common threads run through the histories of church and associational WMU organizations from the sea to the mountains: the leadership of a pastor's wife blessed many. When one moved to another church, God in His providence seemed to bring along another pastor and wife with the same feelings of commitment to missions and a willingness to serve. They were respected, loved, and supported by their husbands and in many instances made great contributions to the ministry of the total church, more than history books will record, and that was all right with the women. Their motto was: "For ye serve the Lord Christ."

During these early years, when the state was poor, God led the women to respond in different ways according to the needs they saw and their resources. The Waughtown Ladies Aid Society, (Pilot Mountain Association), in 1922 had as its stated purpose that they were to make money and help pay for Waughtown Baptist Church. They served and baked. Mrs. R. O. Bullard made eighteen dresses and Mrs. Lena Johnson sold them for \$1 each.

In 1922 First Baptist Church, Wadesboro, (Anson Association) established the Old Dutch Tea Room. The women operated the tea room for several years with proceeds going to the new church building. A businessman in the church, H. B. Allen, donated the building for the tearoom after he was told what good work the women were doing. Mrs. Bray, the pastor's wife, organized the first Associational Girls' Auxiliary Conference in North Carolina and it was held in this church in 1929. At the time of the Great Depression, the women of this church, with the church in debt and the Southern Baptist mission boards in distress, responded to the call for a "Crucible Offering" for the mission offerings. They brought precious pieces, wedding rings, watches, and all kinds of jewelry. Many indifferent Christians were touched and there developed throughout the South determination to pay every cent of their indebtedness.

In 1918 the New Britton Baptist Church (Dock Association, formerly Brunswick), organized a WMU with all organizations meeting once a month on Saturday afternoon. Everyone walked to church. The women saved Sunday eggs and sold them for mission work.

In 1922 Mrs. John Wacaster gave a report of the Women's Work to the meeting of the general association (Kings Mountain Association). She was the first woman to speak in the general meeting. She reported forty active organizations, with women and children having given \$10,617.20.

In Bladen Association in 1922, the associational WMU organization reported they had furnished one room at the Baptist hospital and made quilts for the Baptist orphanage. This was done by the associational WMU organization.

At the Galeed Baptist Church, which seems to have had the first organization in Bladen Association, the women evidently had planted a cotton patch with records indicating proceeds from cotton projects were \$52.01. The women were asked to "set a hen and sell baby chicks," and bring the money from them for the church debt. The women cleaned the church building and raised money earned from that for Home and Foreign mission offerings. Galeed adults still remember the little yellow "sunshine bags" for saving pennies and tithing boxes from Mrs. Mattie Lennon's Sunbeam Band.

In the western part of the state, West Asheville Baptist Church women were first led to minister to World War I veterans who were in the nearby hospital at Oteen. Mission giving increased steadily in the church, beginning with 10 percent and eventually reaching about 50 percent of total gifts.

Canton Baptist Church (in the same association—Buncombe), amended their church constitution to the effect "that every woman, by reason of her membership in the church shall be a member of the Woman's Missionary Society." They had a very strong emphasis on tithing. At one time, out of 90 WMU members, 89 were tithers.

All across the state the women were studying and praying, giving and serving. The footprints of Mrs. Sallie Bailey Jones can be traced from east to west as reports and histories from the church and association are read. Her influence was far-reaching.

Mrs. Jones was known for her meticulous preparation for every speaking opportunity. At any meeting where she was to speak, her message was a highlight. In her own executive committee meetings she pre-

pared carefully and presented devotional thoughts based on the scriptures, missionary stories and literary readings. One member of the committee said:

The devotions were short, deeply spiritual and aroused in each of us a desire to be more perfectly fitted into the plan He has for our lives. She inspired confidence: she was a godly woman; her very appearance was that of strength expressed in her quiet reserved manner and her firm reliance on God...Even during the darkest days of depression she continually reminded the women of God's promises and that "the battle is the Lord's. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 59.)

Even as her predecessor had done, Sallie Bailey Jones continually urged training of young people in mission thought, information and activity. She wanted quality work done by leaders in all of the age-level organizations, even as the organizations continued to multiply rapidly.

Young People's Work

Work among the young people grew, and in 1924 Miss Dorothy Kellam, recent graduate of the WMU Training School, from Georgia, was employed as the first young people's secretary. She served four years and was followed in 1928 by Miss Alva Lawrence, who came from the staff at Baptist Children's Home in Thomasville. She served until her marriage to Mr. Earl C. James of Elkin, but continued her service through WMU as a vice president and in many other capacities.

Miss Mary Currin was named young people's secretary in 1935 and served in that capacity until she was named executive secretary. She was succeeded by Miss Kathryn Abee of Hickory. Miss Abee served until she resigned in 1946 to marry Rev. A. T. Greene. Nine months later Miss Hilda Mayo of Rocky Mount was named young people's secretary. Each of the women who served in this strategic position for the education of young people for missions was fully trained and committed to youth and missions. Each was a graduate of the WMU Training School. Each made a distinct contribution to strengthening enlisting and involving more young people through their work with leaders, camps and rallies. They served admirably and untiringly until the office was omitted in 1957 when age-level directors were secured.

Associational Girls Auxiliary (GA) and Royal Ambassador (RA) camps were promoted with a major emphasis on mission study. In 1930 the first statewide GA camp was held at Meredith College where the first North Carolina GA queens were crowned. They were Shirley Mae Stallings of Durham, Edna Claire Stroud of Greenville, Mary Claire Stokes of Wilson, Katie Lee Stewart of Mebane, and Mary Elizabeth Stanton of Red Springs. Three years later Ethel Lockey of Allen Street Baptist Church, Charlotte, was the first reported Queen-with-Scepter.

In 1944, with an increase in the involvement of boys in the missions organization, Mr. A. T. Greene became Royal Ambassador secretary for North and South Carolina. When he left to live in South Carolina, another forward step was taken on September 1, 1946 when Mr. B. W. (Bill) Jackson, graduate of Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary, became full time secretary for North Carolina Royal Ambassadors. He joined the young people's secretary in efforts for training leadership, providing camps and other opportunities, with primary responsibility for the boys.

Offerings

In 1924, almost ten years after Miss Heck's death, Miss Mary Cox of Magnolia, long-time superintendent of Wilmington Division, recommended that a special offering be established in memory of Fannie E. S. Heck. The suggestion was made that it be given on or near her birthday, June 16, with the name being the "Heck Memorial Offering." The first offering was allocated to the Foreign Mission Board with future offerings to be allocated by the WMU Executive Board. The program used in promoting the first offering contained a summary of Miss Heck's life, her last letter, a poem, and helps to celebrate her birthday. In the years following, programs and helps were provided to promote the celebration and offering, and a proposed budget for expenditure of the funds given.

Mrs. Edna R. Harris was elected to serve as executive secretary in 1926. A teacher, homemaker, mother and WMU worker in local societies and associations in both South Carolina and North Carolina, she was well qualified for this leadership role. Mrs. Jones characterized her as follows:

Mrs. Harris...has brought to the work unusual qualifications and ability. Her love of people and her untiring energy as she

has traveled from one section of the State to another have brought large returns in awakened interest and enthusiasm. The field of the Union has greatly developed through her service, as many as forty-five or fifty Association meetings have been attended by her in one year. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 69.)

On May 7, 1939, Mrs. Harris was preparing to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Oklahoma City, happy to be carrying with her glowing reports of the successes in North Carolina during the Golden Jubilee celebration. She worked late on Saturday afternoon, putting her office in order before leaving. In the evening, she became ill and died shortly thereafter.

Miss Mary Currin, young people's secretary, wrote about her friend:

Her unswerving loyalty to Christ, her aggressive, intelligent interest in missions around the world, her yearning for the unsaved in home community and to the uttermost parts, her loving sacrificial service, her genuine love for individuals of every age and condition, all these made her a leader. She loved every phase of our great W.M.U. work. Especially did she believe that our W.M.U. Training School was a powerful instrument in God's hand for carrying out the Great Commission. Thus, we believe it was Divinely planned that the North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, in Wilmington, March 1940, adopted the following resolution: That we establish a scholarship at the W.M.U. Training School as a memorial to Mrs. Edna R. Harris, this scholarship to be awarded to students of outstanding scholarship, ability, and Christian character. This living, perpetual memorial she would have, rather than a building of brick or stone. (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 70.)

The Edna R. Harris Scholarship Fund was moved from the WMU Training School in 1963 (after its merger with Southern Seminary) to the Baptist Foundation of North Carolina which was authorized to send receipts from the fund to Southeastern Seminary annually (action of the WMU executive board April 9, 1963). At the May 15, 1994 meeting of the executive board, instructions were given that the Harris fund be held intact and that North Carolina WMU be the recipient for the pur-

pose of granting scholarships in accordance with its original intent. Countless North Carolina women, and some men, have benefited from the action taken in 1940 to establish the scholarship fund, among them one who later served as president, Sara Kanoy Parker (Mrs. A. L.).

Mission Studies

A plan was adopted to issue Mission Study Certificates to all age levels of mission societies, and reading cards for Sunbeam Band members for mission books read. Mabel Beeker, Leaksville (now Eden), was the recipient of the first Sunbeam Band Certificate for study of a mission book and a reading card with five stamps.

In 1935 the plan of a special Focus Week for each age-level organization came into being. In the second Sunbeam Band Focus Week the Golden Goals included the goal of 700 Sunbeam Bands and a gift from every person who was ever a member of a Sunbeam Band. It was noted that Mrs. Maude Burke Dozier, serving at that time in Fukuoka, Japan, was the first North Carolina Sunbeam Band member to be appointed as a foreign missionary. Mrs. Foy J. Farmer, reporting on the annual session held in March 1936, said:

A big birthday cake with fifty burning candles, white and yellow flowers, palms and ferns made the platform beautiful, but fifty Sunbeams, dressed in yellow and white, who sang their Sunbeam song and told of their goals for the year added far more beauty.

In some of her later messages, Mrs. Jones, still serving as president, emphasized the importance of Personal Service, later called Community Missions. She felt social problems such as child labor, temperance legislation, welfare work and prison reforms must be solved, not by human methods, but only when we put into practice the teachings of Jesus. Christ's prayer for His disciples was not that they should be taken out of the world but that they might be kept while in it.

Mrs. Jones had a deep concern for all mission work and used her energies and financial support for all the Boards. However, Mrs. Foy J. Farmer, writing in her book about Sallie Bailey Jones, said "Foreign Missions had her deepest love...through her liberal gifts, her prayers, personal kindness to missionaries and to national Christians who

came to this country, she sowed fertile seeds of truth by many waters in far away lands." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 82.)

Missionary H. H. McMillan of Soochow, China, knew firsthand how important those seeds were that were sown by Mrs. Jones and the women of North Carolina. In 1913, Dr. Maddry and Dr. Weatherspoon were visiting in China with the newly elected Secretary for the Orient, Dr. M. Theron Rankin. In one of the buildings the floor gave way under Dr. Maddry's foot. The three agreed there was a real need for a new building in that place.

Soon after, Dr. McMillan was furloughing in North Carolina and was traveling by bus to Wilmington with Miss Mary Currin, then Young People's Secretary for North Carolina WMU. As he showed her some pictures of the work at Sisang Ming Zen, Miss Currin was impressed. When she saw the old buildings in the background she turned to him and said, "What would you think if we gave some of the Heck Memorial Fund to erect a building for this work in Soochow? The women of North Carolina have never done anything in a special way for the work there, while we have had many North Carolina missionaries in Central China." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 83-84.)

Dr. McMillan said he would never forget the day Mrs. Edna R. Harris, executive secretary, and Mrs. Jones, president of North Carolina WMU, called him to Raleigh for a conference. The women had decided to put the Soochow need first on the list for the Heck Memorial Fund in 1936. He returned to the field with the assurance of \$12,500.

Later, in Mrs. Jones's absence, the executive committee decided to make the gift to China in honor of Mrs. Jones, who was retiring from the presidency after serving through the organization for a total of fifty years. In 1947, at the annual meeting in Asheville, the name of the annual offering for mission causes known as the Heck Memorial Offering, established in 1924, was changed at the suggestions of Mrs. R. N. Simms, Jr. to the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering.

All of the memorials for these early leaders were deserved and appropriate. But by far the worthiest ones are found in the "broad and deep foundations of the North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union—foundations that they have laid, and inspiration, which they have given to inspire and encourage other women to such faithful and devoted service." (Foy J. Farmer, *Hitherto*, 96.)

CHAPTER FOUR

All Your Powers, Best Service, Best King

1936-1956

Bertha Turner

Mrs. J. Clyde Turner, wife of the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Greensboro, succeeded Mrs. Jones as president. To the Christian historian it is clear that all that had gone before in her life was God's way of preparing her for her important role as the leader in missions for Baptist women of North Carolina. As a young girl (then Bertha Hicks), she had been one of the faithful volunteers in Raleigh who had assisted in the quarterly mailing of letters from Miss Heck to the women of the state, as well as the distribution of leaflets, special programs, envelopes, and samples of mite boxes. Because of her interest she had attended district and state meetings regularly. She knew the work of Woman's Missionary Union.

Some thought Mrs. Turner was at a disadvantage from never having attended a meeting of the executive committee before she became president. That being true, however, she brought to the position a fresh outlook and a new leadership style which called for increased participation and discussion by members of the board. She was a leader who delegated responsibilities and created smaller committees to bring recommendations. The executive



Bertha Hicks Turner (Mrs. J. Clyde), President, 1936-1942, 1945-1946

committee met monthly, and one member is reported to have said she made inestimable contributions to the work.

There were many far-reaching and effective changes made under Mrs. Turner's leadership. The constitution underwent a complete revision. One significant change was to limit the term of service for executive board members to four years without eligibility for re-election until a year had passed. This was in keeping with Mrs. Turner's wisdom and strong desire to lead WMU to be a democracy. It was her firm conviction that volunteer (non-salaried) workers should not continue in office for unlimited years.

In another change, the five districts, called Institute Divisions, and later Missionary Conference Divisions, increased in number to ten.

By 1910 a vice president had been named for each division and in 1911 annual meetings were planned in each of the divisions. The Baptist State Convention divided the associations into ten districts (later called regions), and Mrs. Turner led the women to follow that plan, with proper action being taken at the meeting in Asheville on March 7, 1939. Superintendents were named for the ten districts, as follows:

Elizabeth City, Mrs. A. D. Ward
Rocky Mount, Mrs. E. B. Beasley
Wilmington, Miss Macy Cox
Raleigh, Mrs. W. R. Stone
Hickory, Mrs. R. K. Redwine
Greensboro, Mrs. B. K. Mason
Charlotte, Mrs. Mott B. Blair
Wilkesboro, Mrs. Earl C. James
Asheville, Mrs. J. R. Morgan
Bryson City, Mrs. Sam Gibson

As attendance at divisional meetings grew, serious problems developed finding churches large enough to host the meetings for even one day. The meetings were informational and inspirational. Throughout the year the divisional officers and chairmen were busy responding to the needs of the associational leaders in their divisions, as well as to invitations from some of the local churches. There was a oneness of purpose, shared encouragement and excitement about what God was doing in their churches and among their counterparts in the larger area.

An outstanding accomplishment and evidence of Mrs. Turner's wise

and consecrated leadership was the inauguration of an annual executive council meeting. At that time associational and divisional leaders came together for two days spent in prayer, hard study, practical planning and inspiring leadership. The first such council was held in November 1942, in First Baptist Church, Raleigh. It was clear the response was gratifying and interest grew from year to year.

During these years quality work was done in the established organizations and many of them were asked or volunteered to organize women and age-level organizations in neighboring churches. Enthusiasm for the work spread as members shared what they were doing with school and neighborhood friends.

It seems clear now that God was doing so much more with the faithful efforts of the women who started the small, struggling organizations under unlikely conditions, than any of them even dreamed or imagined (Ephesians 3:20).

Further evidence of Mrs. Turner's wisdom, and desire to lead WMU to be a democracy and to limit the term of service of officers and unsalaried leadership, was her own desire to resign in 1941, having been elected in 1936. Although her resignation was not accepted until 1942, this implemented for the first time a process she felt would strengthen and draw out more leaders for Woman's Missionary Union.

Personal Service—Mission Action

Evidence that the women were following the leading of the Holy Spirit could be seen in their many personal service and mission action efforts, depending on the needs they could see where they lived.

During the war years homes were opened to soldiers and many times to their family members. The women cooperated with many Red Cross efforts. In addition, whole churches would become involved in reaching out to military personnel, either on their way to an overseas assignment or returning stateside. This was particularly true near the military bases in the state, but not restricted to these.

In Ashe Association's Warrenton Baptist Church the associational missionary, Virginia Teague, helped to organize a WMU in 1936. The women challenged the church, saying if the men would build the church building the women would buy the pews. They did, and much more. Mrs. Myrtis Shoaf drew the plans for the church. While the men built, women raised money: sold cards, made flowers from nylon hose, made quilts, sold aprons, cakes and flavorings.

Women in Carolina Association stayed busy. In 1938 they voted to furnish a room at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem at a cost of \$150,000. Mrs. O. J. Smith, superintendent, visited the churches and made an appeal for contributions to furnish the room. One pastor told her she could speak at the end of the service. When the time came, he only asked her to give the benediction. But the money was raised and the room furnished in honor of Miss Martha Frances Sullinger who had served the boys and girls of Fruitland for 35 years, where her Christian influence had made a difference in classrooms and dormitory. Linens and canned items were also sent to the hospital. Local histories record that support came from missions groups across the state to help make the new Baptist Hospital a place of ongoing ministry for everyone.

The WMU made a concerted effort to encourage tithing, with the number of tithers being requested in the regular reports. The elected stewardship chairmen creatively promoted good stewardship. One example was a speech contest among the GAs. The speeches were given first in local churches, with the winner in each church competing in the association and the first place GA in each association giving her speech again in a state meeting. Winners were recognized, with the state winner making her speech on stewardship at one of the state-wide meetings.

Every girl who prepared and delivered a speech learned something about speech-making, but even more about stewardship of life. Mrs. J. Ben Eller of Greensboro, state stewardship chairman, was one of the many encouragers for this successful effort for several years.

New President—Foy J. Farmer

Mrs. Foy J. Farmer was chosen in March 1942, to succeed Mrs. Turner as president. The work of Woman's Missionary Union was not new to her. A graduate of the Baptist Female University (now Meredith College), she taught school for a few years and then became the wife of Rev. Calder T. Willingham while he was home on furlough from Japan. They both went to Japan as missionaries. She told her mother she was called to marry Mr. Willingham. History proves that her call to missions and to Japan was true.

Mr. Willingham died in America during the dreadful influenza epidemic of 1918. She returned to Japan alone and served in Shimonseki in charge of the book store and the program of evangelism. She was forced to return home because of some health problems of her own. However, all she did in later years was enriched and of increased worth

because of her commitment to missions. Her firsthand knowledge of missions, and the ability to communicate, especially during her ongoing service in North Carolina, through Woman's Missionary Union, was extremely helpful.

In 1922 Foy Willingham was married to Rev. James S. Farmer, business manager and later editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, and faithful pastor. Their children, Fannie Memory and James had a rich heritage. Foy Farmer had continued to be involved in WMU work through the years, having served as state mission study chairmen from 1939 to 1942. She had lifted the awareness of the women to what God was



*Foy Johnson Farmer (Mrs. J. S.)
President, 1942-1945, 1946-
1951.*

doing through our missionaries at home and abroad, and through their own direct efforts near at hand. She authored several books: *Publishing Glad Tidings*; *At the Gate of Asia*; *Mrs. Maynard's House*; *Sallie Bailey Jones*, and *Hitherto* (history of NC WMU, 1952).

World War II brought travel restrictions by the government and no annual meeting could be held in 1945. To meet known needs, the executive committee and the ten division superintendents met in an all day session to make plans for the year. A goal of 500 new organizations was set. The 1946 report showed an increase of 657 new organizations, 72 being Women's Missionary Societies.

Plans made by former leaders were continued under the leadership of Mrs. Farmer as interim executive secretary.

Ruth Provence—Executive Secretary

Miss Ruth Provence followed God's leadership for her life in responding to the call of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union to join the staff as executive secretary in September 1946. Years earlier, while attending a YWA conference at Ridgcrest led by Miss Juliette Mather, she had received and responded to God's call to missions.

"I felt the touch of God's hand in a very real way. I knew without a doubt that He wanted my life and before I left the mountaintop, I experienced joy and peace in a complete yielding of my life to Him." (Written testimony on file in WMU office in Cary.)



Early State WMU Staff outside State WMU Offices in Raleigh

Miss Provence had graduated from Peabody College and the WMU Training School. She had served as religious director at Bethel Woman's College in Kentucky where she had worked with YWAs on campus. It was from that position that she was called to be young people's secretary for South Carolina WMU. With commitment and experience she responded to the challenge as executive secretary in North Carolina. The only other professional staff position at the time was for a young people's secretary. A vacancy existed in this position for nine months until Miss Hilda Mayo graduated from the WMU Training School.

Miss Provence reflected on her years as executive secretary (in interview and correspondence):

One incident with Mrs. Farmer I have never forgotten, and the memory of this has eased my mind time and time again...My first annual meeting in North Carolina was to be held at First Baptist Church, Greensboro. For weeks I had planned and worked with an earnest desire that everything would move smoothly and effectively. The evening came and with it down-

pours of rain! I was greatly disturbed and deeply concerned. Mrs. Farmer...spoke to me in gentle tones: "Remember, Ruth, this is the Lord's work and the Lord's weather. He will take care of things...We can trust Him. Just leave it all to Him." And we had a wonderful attendance and response.

Miss Provence recalled her desire to give attention to the work of the women in the churches across the entire state. She did hesitate to travel in the mountains in the wintertime since all roads were two lanes or less. On one occasion, when she was to meet with the women in one of the mountain communities, she recalled snow began to fall in the night and continued to fall. A woman came into the church building after walking three miles in the blowing wind and snow in order to come to the meeting. When asked why she had come through such difficult weather conditions, she replied, "I just wanted to be a part of missions, but I might not have come if I hadn't had to bring the beans!"

Under the leadership of Mrs. Farmer and Miss Provence the state WMU executive council with its overnight fall meeting continued to play a key role in planning and implementing the work. Women from every area of the state contributed to the planning and decision making. Miss Provence remembers the late night editing she did to be ready for a typist early the next morning so copies of actions taken and plans laid could be placed in the hands of the women that day. The hard work was worth it. The WMU executive council had ownership from the beginning for suggested plans for the next year.

Recognizing the need for training at all levels, and in response to requests for it, a leadership effort was launched in the form of overnight institute training for WMU leadership for the local church. The first such Institute was held at Fruitland Institute in 1950 with attendance overflowing. Some 600 women had sought advance registration and only 350 could be accommodated! This kind of training opened the door for hundreds of women to improve the quality of their leadership in the churches. Their willingness and commitment were there. Now the training had been made available. The women, state leadership and those attending, felt the Lord had led in the idea and establishment of the Institutes. Subsequent Institutes were held at Fruitland, Campbell College and Chowan College. The numbers kept growing. Miss Provence felt the idea for and work with the Institutes was perhaps her most valuable contribution.

In North Carolina, and nationally, there was an increased interest in family camping and group camping, providing opportunities for many learning experiences. Soon state and divisional camps for junior and intermediate GAs and RAs and weekends for YWAs were just “happening” as leaders realized the quality time they provided for exposure to Bible study, getting to know missionaries and to hear first hand how they were telling people about Jesus. Recreation and craft activities were a part of the total experience, but the driving force was missions.

Regional and associational leaders secured use of college campuses, local civic club campsites, school buildings, public parks, wherever they could find a place to safely provide for eager children and youth. State personnel assisted with planning and securing missionaries but, for the most part, promotion and carrying out the camp program was done by local and associational leadership. Again, God did so much more with their efforts and in the lives of those who attended than any of them could even imagine. Many young people who later served on home and foreign mission fields, and many local leaders, have pointed to those early camp experiences as turning points in their lives.

The Baptist State Convention purchased two assembly grounds, Fruitland Baptist Institute in the mountains and Caswell Baptist Assembly near Southport. These provided locations for week-long camping programs.

Under the fine leadership of Mrs. Farmer and Miss Provence growth in involvement and quality of leadership for the children continued to be a thrust that would have pleased Miss Heck who had admonished the women:

Train the children for worldwide service,
Lead the young women gently into places of joyous
responsibility.
Bring all your powers into the best service of the best King.
Thus shall your work abide and be abundantly blessed of God
to your own joy and the joy of the world.

Many GAs completed work in Forward Steps, a program for additional individual and voluntary study and memorization of scriptures and missions information. Maude Pow of Cramerton in Gaston Association, having completed her work as Queen-Regent, was the first girl in North Carolina to request that additional work be given her,

since she wasn't old enough to become a member of Young Woman's Auxiliary. On October 23, 1949, she was recognized as Queen-in-Service. At that time no such step was recognized by WMU, SBC, but was an additional step in North Carolina under the direction of the young people's secretary, Miss Hilda Mayo.

In 1953 North Carolina provided the step of Honor Queen for junior GAs who had completed the work of Queen but were not old enough to work on the intermediate step, Queen-with-Scepter. By this time these needs became evident in other places and were recognized by WMU, SBC leadership. In 1957 North Carolina fell in line with their provisions for these groups. The step Queen-in-Service replaced the North Carolina's Queen, and Queen-Regent-in-Service replaced North Carolina's Queen-in-Service.

Interest in Forward Steps continued to increase and many more girls completed steps in the program. This program disciplined many who might never have known how God gives spiritual gifts and calls people to accomplish His purposes in the world. Here they learned how to pray for people they did not know, how to share their Christian witness with those near at hand, and how to return to God a tithe of what He had entrusted to them. Through memorization of scripture and hands-on ministries in a wide variety of settings they could see God's plans and purposes in their lives and in the world. The program helped provide a corps of young women interested in missions and committed to missions wherever God led them. The histories of the local churches and Home and Foreign Mission Boards give evidence of the results brought about through such training and faithful leadership.

Business Women—Night Meetings

With the war years many women went to work for the first time outside the home. Those who had attended day meetings of their missions organizations could no longer do so, and many young women had never been enlisted. Miss Mary Currin, executive secretary, had encouraged the businesswomen to organize and invest their lives in Kingdom services through the many avenues open to them. In the late 40's and early 50's, the BWCs (Business Women's Circles) grew in number and interest.

Mrs. Maddrey and Miss Provence have pleasant memories of working with the BWCs and the organization in 1950 of the State Federation of Baptist Business Women at a statewide banquet held at Meredith College.

The officers were: Mrs. Virginia Simmons, Charlotte, chairman; Mrs. Hugh Page, Greensboro and Miss Elvira Tyson, Farmville, vice chairmen; Mrs. Clara Courts, Winston-Salem, secretary. Mrs. R. B. Wilkins of Durham, second vice president of the WMU of North Carolina, was chosen as representative from the executive committee to work as advisor for the Federation. The State Federation chairman was later made a member of the state WMU executive committee.

When the writer was interviewing Miss Provence for this history, Miss Provence recalled Mrs. Hugh Page of Greensboro as being an effective president of the state group and of making a valuable contribution to its resounding success.

Interracial Institutes

Mrs. Farmer's deep concern and wise guidance led to the Interracial Institutes as a way of speaking to and acting to meet the needs of the times. The Institutes were a joint effort of the Baptist Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention and Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. They were held annually, alternating between white and black churches in different locations each year from 1941 through 1963. WMU has continued to make financial gifts to be used for student work, summer camp, and general work with the Baptist Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention. Some years there has been an exchange of speakers for various events and scholarships for various study opportunities.

In addition, many associations determined ways they could assist in training leadership for the black churches in their areas: sometimes taking leadership training into their churches, other times extending invitations and encouraging participation in their own scheduled leadership training. Some very successful prayer retreats have been jointly planned and participated in by both women's groups at the associational level. This cooperative effort has been more successful in some geographical areas of the state than in others, more successful some years than in others.

Five-Year Term Limit—Officers and Chairmen

The year 1947 brought changes through constitutional revisions. The number of delegates to the annual session was then limited to three from each church. Acting on recommendation of the state nominating

committee, the WMU voted to establish a five-year term limit for all non-salaried officers and for the chairman of each of the fundamental committees. The five-year term of service proved wise, and continued. Mrs. Farmer's five-year term expired in 1951. During her tenure and the leadership of the Farmer-Provence team, there was evidence of spiritual growth, enlarged missionary vision and increased membership.

Mabel Claire Maddrey Elected President

In 1951 Mabel Claire Maddrey, from Ahoskie, West Chowan Association, was elected president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. A graduate of Meredith College, she had always been active in her own church and association. In the state organization she had served as Mission Study Chairman for five years.

Having come from families actively involved in Baptist life, community and political affairs, Mrs. Maddrey thrust herself fully into her new role and responsibilities as president of North Carolina WMU. She was fortunate to always have help in the home to relieve her of many household duties and was freed for involvement outside the home. Later, she began to spend three or more days a week in Raleigh and was provided a room in the home of Miss Ora Olford. She began to receive many requests for speaking engagements throughout the state, and although she had the support of her busy



Mabel Claire Maddrey (Mrs. Gordon), President, 1951-1956

husband, when she was out of town she needed her mother to be there for the two growing boys, Charles and Joseph. The speaking opportunities continued to increase and Mrs. Maddrey's mother just moved into the home with the family.

As the work grew steadily during these years, many changes and challenges became opportunities.

When WMU, SBC made the decision to change the organizational year to October 1 through September 30, North Carolina WMU adopted the same calendar structure. With a continuing emphasis on growth and enlistment, the first vice president was asked to serve as enlistment

chairman. Mrs. Leland Kitchen, Sr., of Scotland Neck, was elected to that office and began immediately to focus on encouraging the training of women for enlistment.

In January 1952, at the suggestion of Miss Provence, \$3,000 was transferred from the Training School Fund to the Baptist Foundation endowment of Edna R. Harris Honor Scholarship in order to increase annual income for scholarships for young women.

Four Missionary Fundamentals

Mission Study, Stewardship, Community Missions and Prayer were the four fundamentals that helped the women focus on their purposes. The plans and methods used were those published in the *WMU Guide Book for Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina*. This publication was designed to supplement the *Year Book* and the *Manual of Woman's Missionary Union*. State leadership provided training for divisional and associational chairmen. Departmental Institutes were held, beginning January 29-30, 1952 and continuing through 1958. In 1950 the executive council was authorized to adopt the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC plan. The *Guide Book* was continued and incorporated the spirit of the plan until 1958 when it was felt the state book was no longer needed.

The significance of the Seasons of Prayer became evident. As the number of missionary organizations observing the Seasons of Prayer increased, a large increase in special offerings could be seen.

Work with young people continued to thrive, highlighted by many exciting events.

In 1952 the first state Royal Ambassador Congress was held April 4-5, in First Baptist Church, Charlotte, with 460 in attendance.

In June 1954 the Southern Baptist Convention voted for the promotion of Royal Ambassadors to come under the joint sponsorship of WMU and Brotherhood for a period of three years, looking toward transfer of Royal Ambassadors to the Brotherhood. In cooperation, Mrs. Maddrey appointed a committee to study the matter for North Carolina, naming Sara (Mrs. A. L.) Parker, Greensboro, as chairman. The full transfer was completed October 1, 1957.

In 1955 Young Woman's Auxiliary held the first YWA Houseparty at Campbell College. The same year the first Grand Mission Tour by YWAs from North Carolina was made to Glorieta Baptist Assembly in New Mexico, with visits made to mission points along the way.

The year 1957 marked the observance of the Golden Anniversary of YWAs and the organization was featured at the annual session, March 12. Janet Wilson, young people's secretary, directed a dramatic presentation, which she had written to record the fifty years of growth of the Young Woman's Auxiliary.

Excitement in Growth

Excitement grew in the missions organizations from East to West, North to South in the state. In almost every association enthusiasm spread from one church to another and women placed great emphasis on the annual meetings of the organization in the association and in the state. Great strength and ideas were shared when the women got together. For some local church leadership the annual state meeting became the one time a year when their husbands assumed home responsibilities to enable them to be away from home overnight. They returned home refreshed and inspired and filled with dreams of what could be done in their own churches.

Church to church the women helped each other. New organizations came into being due to a neighbor's testimony of the organizations in her church. The following are some examples.

The women in Goldsboro's First Baptist Church assisted and encouraged leaders in several missions and organized churches in the Neuse-Atlantic Association. A Woman's Missionary Union was organized in the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, January 30, 1954. On a cold, snowy night the women met at First Baptist Church. The Rev. Roy Beals was the speaker and Roy Sasser the first chairman of deacons. They asked Mrs. B. H. (Mildred) Bell to come to this new church to organize the women. Literature was provided by the women from First Baptist until such time as they could secure their own subscriptions.

Mildred Bell said it was one of the most rewarding things she ever did. Strong organizations were developed for all age groups, with prayer and hands-on missions being important from the beginning. Mission study, prayer retreats, and ministry in every identified area of need has continued through the years. These included cooperation with United Church Ministries, Salvation Army, soup kitchen and migrant workers, books and furniture to Cherry Hospital, work with a child care center, Half-Way House, O'Berry Center and the Development School. These women then assisted with the organization of WMU in a new church being sponsored by the Madison Avenue Baptist Church. Mildred Bell is

reported to have said that the national, state and local WMU were the best planned organizations one could find anywhere. They were God-inspired! They believed what they did made a difference.

State Leadership

Miss Provence served with both Mrs. Farmer and Mrs. Maddrey. Each relied on the executive secretary in differing degrees, according to her own leadership style. This was a time when the work began to merge the two roles: the elected president and the employed executive secretary.

Mrs. Maddrey felt the lay people elected should do the job. "And I did," she said. "I planned and invited the people for the annual sessions and that kind of thing. Miss Provence and I were very different people. She was such a good person. I have to work at being good. I don't think she ever had a bad thought. She had Mrs. Farmer's gentleness. We worked together well but we did think out our responsibilities. Miss Provence had been doing everything about the convention but I know I did most of the arrangements for my conventions." (From oral interview in 1997)

Mrs. Maddrey reflected on her years with appreciation for the support from pastors and laymen in denominational life. She said she never received cross words or a put-down from the brethren. In speaking of her leadership she felt "most people had rather be followers than thinkers: I had ideas, I just let the men think they had thought of an idea and just appreciated and bragged on them, and thanked them." (Interview by Dorothy Allred)

Mrs. Maddrey, always poised and gracious, served enthusiastically for five years, stimulating the vision for missions and encouraging missionary support and involvement through the total program of Woman's Missionary Union. Beautiful in personal appearance, with her gentle, gracious spirit, she was sometimes introduced as the "Queen of North Carolina Baptist Women." Resistant to such remarks, she was a worthy role model, bringing great dignity to the annual sessions with her minute planning of every detail, including where each participant was to stand on the platform and for how long.

She said her mother was responsible for her expectations of perfection

since childhood days. Her mother would not let her settle for less than her best. One outstanding thing remembered by those attending annual sessions was her presidential speeches. She wrote them out first, but she always delivered verbatim without the manuscript or notes!

Miss Ruth Provence, who was so well received and loved by the women, and whose work had been so effective, left big shoes to be filled when she resigned as executive secretary in 1955.

Miriam Robinson, Executive Secretary

The committee given the responsibility for recommending another person for this position listed the qualities needed, including: ideas, originality, creativity, and administrative ability. The committee spent much time seeking God's direction in being led to the right person and felt divinely guided to Miriam Robinson. Miss Robinson was serving as a professor of speech and missionary education at Carver School of Missions. She had all of the identified qualities and brought to her new assignment so much more. Those who had been students under her were ecstatic. They had already benefited from the great spiritual depth of this new leader, recalling prayer time at the beginning of her classes as the most anticipated experience of their Carver School days. She was presented to North Carolina women at the annual meeting in 1955.



Miriam Robinson, Executive Secretary, 1955-1968

As reported elsewhere in this history, her great spiritual depth and daily walk with the Master was evident in her leadership. In conferences she led, and in the public messages she delivered in churches, associations and the convention, participants felt this was a woman who had been and was continually being moved and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

One of her early concerns was there needed to be a continuing and accelerated emphasis on training leadership. In her work with local churches she realized some youth were promoted out of one organization into "nothing," since there was not available trained leadership to take them to the next level of missions education. Particularly this was true when the girls finished intermediate GAs and were ready for YWAs. She

realized in many associations not enough time was given to train the WMU leadership for the churches. She gave focused attention to trying to close this leadership gap with the combined efforts of the staff, knowing the leadership in the local church was where the work was accomplished.

For the next thirteen years Miss Robinson served as executive secretary, always dignified, poised, and with a contagious Christian spirit, setting high expectations for herself and those around her.

CHAPTER FIVE

An Offering in the Hand of God

1956-1971

Velma McGee

In 1956 Mrs. W. K. McGee (Velma), of Winston-Salem, was elected the sixth president of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. She was already known and loved by the women in the state, having served as state stewardship chairman. Gentle in spirit, elegant in appearance and personality, Mrs. McGee brought to the office her sincere and humble dedication to the Lord and to the cause of missions. She was well received and appreciated in the state and in her expanded responsibilities in Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.



*Velma McGee (Mrs. W.K.),
President, 1956-1961*

Miss Miriam Robinson, executive secretary, and Mrs. McGee became partners in leadership for North Carolina women. They provided "know how," inspiration and encouragement, with an increased emphasis on stewardship, enlistment and leadership training. They challenged the women to greater efficiency in promotion and planning to fulfill the short-term goals and overall purposes of the organization.

The president had a love for missions instilled by her mother in her early years. This led to the acceleration of her involvement in the organization when she became the wife of a pastor and the mother to four daughters. She became a role model for other wives of ministers and

their involvement in the missions organizations, both adult and other age-levels.

During 1957 the women marked anniversaries, inaugurated organizational changes and instituted new plans for promoting missions. Among these were anniversary celebrations for fifty years of *Royal Service*, the Carver School of Missions (name changed from "WMU Training School" in 1953), and Young Woman's Auxiliary.

The observance of "Fifty Years of Golden Service" of Carver School of Missions and Social Work was marked with a luncheon during the annual session in 1957. Mrs. A. T. Green, Jr., president of the North Carolina Alumni Association was in charge. She reported, during the fifty years of its existence, 4,000 students had studied at Carver School and were serving in 43 states and 33 countries, with approximately 300 alumna living and serving in North Carolina, the largest number in any state.

The first fifty years of Young Woman's Auxiliary was marked at the annual meeting with a dramatic presentation (pageant) that was written to record the fifty years of growth of YWA. It was written and directed by Janet Wilson, young people's director for North Carolina WMU.

At the 1957 meeting the By-laws (formerly called the Constitution) were revised to provide for an executive board composed of officers, chairmen of committees and twelve members at large, and for age-level directors for Sunbeams, Girls Auxiliary, Young Woman's Auxiliary and Woman's Missionary Society.

First World Missions Week

For the week of July 1-7, 1957, WMU and Brotherhood joined together to sponsor the first World Missions Week. This event was the realization of a long-time dream of the leadership of Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina and leadership of the Baptist State Convention's Brotherhood Department. This was a week planned for all ages at the Baptist Assembly at Caswell, near Southport. It was an effort to involve the whole family in an awareness of missions and ways to be involved in missions.

Programming was provided for adults, with YWA and GA houseparties held under the direction of Sara Ann Hobbs, YWA Director, and Barbara Rodman, GA Director. RAs were directed by Bill Jackson, RA Secretary. This was a highly successful effort from the beginning and became an annual event for several years, with many families planning

their vacations to include this week. Many people accepted Christ, others found new meaning and direction for their lives. Some felt God's call to missions as junior age boys and girls, and stayed their course for preparation, appointment and service with one or more of the Baptist mission boards.

Others took their commitment to missions into the local church and responded to the challenge of work with the young people in their church and association.

Volumes could be written about those who have felt God's call to live up to their potential and to be responsive to His leading wherever it might be. Histories of local churches and associations bear out the importance of the influence on those who experienced "World Missions Week at Caswell."

In 1983, during Home Missions Week at Ridgecrest, Hoyle and Dot Allred of Gastonia were in the dining room when a couple came up to speak to them. The Allreds did not recognize them. The young man said as a boy he had accepted Christ at World Missions Week at Caswell in the 1960s. The woman had felt God's call to missions during the same week. The two young people had not known each other until that week, but in God's plan for their lives they had continued to follow the Lord in keeping with their Caswell commitments. Now, many years later, they were on the mission field in the Caribbean. They wanted Dr. Allred to know that his service as pastor, in the Junior Building, had made a difference in their lives, and they wanted to thank him.

No doubt there are many untold stories of how God used those weeks to carry out His purposes.

Attendance at World Missions Week grew from 400 the first year, plus drive-ins, to 1,100 in 1960, 1,200 in 1962 and 1,000 in 1963. No World Missions Conference week was held in 1965 in order to encourage North Carolina Baptists to attend the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Miami. The program was resumed the following year with 700 in attendance, and continued for several years.

YWA Growth

In 1958 Sara Ann Hobbs, the first YWA director, initiated additional requirements beyond the YWA Citation for the young women who wanted to continue their progress in missions education. The first three girls awarded the new Honor Citation were: Phyllis Austin, Johnson Association, Cornelia Sumner and Peggy Babb Vaughan, both from

West Chowan Association. The Honor Citation was adopted in 1960 by WMU, SBC. North Carolina led the way.

YWA Houseparties at Chowan College and Mars Hill College were held with maximum capacity at each location. In 1959 a state-sponsored tour was authorized for attendance at YWA week at Glorieta, New Mexico. The Young Woman's Auxiliary was a mission force to be reckoned with. The young women grew in Christian graces and with an increasing awareness that God had purpose for each of their lives. The organization made a difference in the lives of many young women who have served in the local church and around the world, and still does.

First WMS Director

In 1959 Kathryn Bullard, from Gibson, North Carolina (see chapter 13), became the first director of work for the Woman's Missionary Societies. She would work specifically with the age-level group for adult women.

North American Baptist Women's Meeting

The executive board authorized, in April 1957, the sending of the secretary and president of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union to the meeting in Toronto, Canada of the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABU), part of the Baptist World Alliance. The meeting was held in 1958 with forty women from North Carolina attending. This was a significant meeting for cooperation and participation in this organization along with other Baptist groups throughout North America. This relationship has been maintained through the years, with North Carolina being represented at each meeting since that time.

Promotion of Four Fundamentals

The plan of work for the age-level organizations was built around the Four Fundamentals: Prayer, Mission Study, Stewardship, and Community Missions. Committees were named and a chairman for each committee was elected by the executive board. The organization in the local church followed the same format. Work throughout the state was strengthened by these dedicated, gifted and talented chairmen and their committees. This structure enabled training to be more focused. In some years the training provided by state leadership (professional, employed and volunteer) was offered to regional leadership, other times it was held in each region for local church leadership.

Each arrangement was designed to meet the needs of the women in the best way with the goal of strengthening the work in the local church.

By 1960 provision had been made for a full professional (later called program) staff. Working with the elected officers of WMU and the executive board, the staff began planning, training, and implementing the programs and actions that fulfilled the purposes of Woman's Missionary Union. This cooperative leadership team approach has proved to be most effective. The direction and plan of work could be designed, agreed upon and carried out, usually with involvement of the whole leadership team, including the executive board.

Priority was given to training all associational leaders, with a focus on age-level training that would help them carry out the desired aims and goals for their organization, following leadership given from WMU, SBC, with adaptations and innovations that North Carolina wanted to make. The associational leaders, in turn, provided a similar conference, of the highest possible quality, for both new and first time leaders of the organizations in the local church.

The excellent training offered to WMU leadership throughout the state inspired other women to train for leadership positions with the confidence they would be trained to equip them for their responsibilities.

The women did not mind working if they knew what to do. If there is a secret to the success of Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina, it is in the training of their leadership.

Training has been provided each year to help the women fulfill their commitment to the Lord and their personal and collective response to the Great Commission.

The networking of trained WMU leaders throughout the state has been the envy of other church-related and secular organizations. It is not a reason for boasting. Rather, it is recognizing it is just the way God has led and women have been willing to follow. Leadership in every generation is quick to acknowledge it is not in their own strength but in His that there have been successes. Programs and conference themes give witness to their recognition of the real Source of Power.

Anna Mae Locklear

God continued to raise up leaders in every area of the state. He knew exactly who was needed in working with the women in Burnt Swamp Association. God chose "Miss Anna Mae" Locklear. God prepared her as

a teacher and leader among the Lumbee, Native American women. A public school teacher, she served for 26 years as director of the associational Woman's Missionary Union, and was also in charge of the associational GA camping from 1947 until 1966. She worked full time during the summer in camps, rallies, Vacation Bible School, and mission study groups, although she received no direct aid to support her efforts. Locklear demonstrated with her life the many ways God could use women. She attended the training meetings with state leadership and enthusiastically returned to her people to share her excitement and joy at what God was doing.

Today's leaders in Burnt Swamp Association benefit from the remarkable growth that has come to missionary work there since 1947. This growth is in itself a tribute to the spirit with which Miss Anna Mae served and with which she inspired the service of others.

Gifts to Missionaries

In July of 1960 the executive board amended the bylaws "to provide a Christmas gift for each woman in active service under the home or foreign mission board and who claims North Carolina as her home state—this gift to consist of one book and one magazine selected by a special committee." (minutes, executive board, July 19, 1960)

Mrs. John Wacaster

Mrs. John Wacaster of Cherryville resigned December 31, 1960, after having served so faithfully and so well in several capacities, including field worker and Mission Study Chairman. On recommendation of Mrs. W. K. Redwine, chairman of the personnel committee, Mrs. Hoyle Allred of Albemarle was elected as Mission Study Chairman.

WMU Fundamentals

Mrs. McGee said the most meaningful part of her tenure as president, personally, was "the eager women, wanting to learn and to do, organizing new unions, getting to know state and southwide leaders...the associational and state meetings and the missionary speakers; the WMU Fundamentals—the Christian spiritual growth they stimulated as we studied and taught them." (from handwritten response to writer)

Mrs. McGee reflected further on this period of WMU history:

I remember the emphasis on making the mission of WMU felt in the total church life, informing the church, making the offerings churchwide, the mission study classes planned for the men and the women, and the transfer of Royal Ambassadors to leadership of the Brotherhood.

Sara Parker

Mrs. A. L. (Sara) Parker of Greensboro was elected president in March 1961. Two years of service as assistant recording secretary and five years as first vice-president preceded her election. She was active in the missions organizations throughout her life, encouraged by her mother, Mrs. W. C. Kanoy, and her pastor's wife, Mrs. J. Clyde Turner.

After receiving her degree from the University of North Carolina in 1938, Sara helped her mother with the GAs in First Baptist Church, Greensboro. In 1941 she was asked to accompany the GAs from her church to a GA Houseparty at Meredith College. During that weekend, as she prayed for the girls to make life-changing decisions, it was she, Sara Kanoy, who went to the altar, making her commitment to go wherever God wanted her to go. The following fall she began studying at the Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville, Ky.

After her first year at the school she became the first recipient of the Edna R. Harris scholarship to the Woman's Missionary Union Training School. The scholarship was based on leadership and scholarship. She marveled at how God had moved so quickly and wonderfully in her life. It was there she was to meet Leroy Parker whom God had led to leave his studies in the medical field to prepare to be a pastor. Sara says today, "So God had so much more in mind than I did. WMU even helped me get my wonderful husband!"

WMU of North Carolina was continuing to actively give leadership in mission endeavors with its multi-faceted efforts to reach and meet the needs of people of all kinds. One example took place in October 1961, when the executive board, at the request of Mrs. E. N. Gardner,



Sara Parker (Mrs. A.L.), President, 1961-1966

chairman of the finance committee, authorized the purchase of a Japanese typewriter for use at Southeastern Seminary by pastor-students working among the 3,000 Japanese in the state.

Miss Robinson was successful in providing and implementing a Seminary Extension Course on WMU in the state. According to a report given in 1961, in three Seminary Extension Centers in the western part of the state, ninety-five people had been enrolled for the course and fifty-two certificates had been given. Ministerial students appreciated getting first hand information about what the women were able to contribute to the churches through the organizations for adults, youth and children. This course was offered for the next several years.

Each January, chairmen for the executive board committees were named. In 1962 these were: Mrs. Hoyle Allred, mission study, Albemarle; Mrs. Norfleet Gardner, prayer, Laurinburg; Mrs. Robert Costner, community missions, Raleigh; Mrs. Harry Wood, stewardship, Leaksville (Eden). Mrs. W. A. Mitchiner had resigned as stewardship chairman in order to spend more time visiting the mission fields and reporting to the churches. Bill and Lena Mitchiner were among the first volunteer missionaries responding in a unique way to a called-out ministry which is remembered throughout the state. (See chapter 13.)

World Missions Year

In 1814 the Triennial Convention of Baptists had been held in Philadelphia, the first national organization of Baptists in America. In order to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this significant meeting, and to give extra effort to strengthening the work of Baptists, six major Baptist fellowships of North America worked together in making plans to designate 1964 as World Missions Year. At this time the Southern Baptist Convention launched its 30,000 Movement, to cooperatively establish 30,000 preaching and Bible stations over the five year period leading up to 1964. The preaching stations could be in new communities, homes for the aging, in prisons, fire stations, towns and villages without a Baptist witness. In cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention the states were urged to adopt these emphases and to set their own advance goals.

Woman's Missionary Union declared the five year period an Era of Prayer, with the strong feeling that success depended upon the undergirding of all efforts with concerted prayer for God's direction and empowerment.

Mrs. Parker's tenure as president was to be marked with celebrations of what God was doing in the world. In North Carolina she had already been appointed by its executive board (1958) as Jubilee Advance chairman. As president and chairman of this effort she helped set goals and make plans for the study, promotion and attainment of the goals. The Jubilee efforts were to permeate all other efforts, such as regional workshops, leadership workshops, and Jubilee conferences across the state.

The year 1963 also marked the 75th Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and the 50th Anniversary of Girls' Auxiliary. Mrs. Henry Gamble, Waxhaw, was appointed Jubilee chairman in April 1961 to replace Mrs. Parker who had become president. The executive board's action in June of that year is recorded in the minutes:

That since 1963 is the 75th Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, we recommend that the days July 15-October 1, 1962 be emphasized as a period of prayer and preparation that our Jubilee Conferences be prayer retreats and that half of the time given to the associational workshops be used as prayer retreats, the other half be used for methods.

The local, associational, state and convention wide 75th Anniversary goals were set as follows:

- 75 percent of the members receiving WMU magazines
- 75 percent of the members reading a missions book
- 15 percent increase in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions
- 15 percent increase in Annie Armstrong Offerings for home missions
- 15 percent increase in tithers
- A five-day observance of Week of Prayer for home and foreign missions
- Study of the book *World Awareness* (spring of 1963)
- Special Cooperative program presentation in each Woman's Missionary Union
- Organize or participate in the work of one mission
- WMU Prayer Retreat in each church and in each associational WMU

Cooperate in promotion of World Missions Week

WMU, SBC had a book written for each year of the emphases to help the women to grow in their own understanding of God's purposes in the world and to help them find their place in it. The books were:

Christian Witnessing, by Floy M. Barnard

Educating Youth in Missions, by Mrs. William McMurry

Christian Sharing of Possession, by Annie U. Wright

Enlistment for Missions, by Helen Fling

World Awareness, by Sadie Crawley

Spiritual Life Development, by Mrs. William McMurry

The books were studied in group meetings, church-wide, and sometimes association-wide, classes. In some instances two or three churches came together for the study of the books. Although the books were prepared to help the women fulfill goals for their local churches, in some instances men joined and shared in the studies, and some pastors did the teaching.

During the anniversary years many of the WMU goals were met in the local churches and in the state, but not all of them. However, in every instance there was a new surge of growth in numbers and participation, with increased offerings, involvement with establishing new missions, and more. There is every reason to believe the increased effort on the part of the women in being involved with the 30,000 Movement of the Southern Baptist Convention made a difference, with their direct involvement being more evident in some areas than in others. But throughout, the women encouraged and helped to strengthen mission endeavors through the local church, often giving leadership to the establishment of new mission points and ministries.

The 50th Anniversary of Girls' Auxiliary, in 1963, was significant in the state's efforts to develop missions awareness, support, and involvement in the churches. The 72nd annual session of WMU of North Carolina featured the GA organization, its members and leaders. Willa Dean Freeman, GA director, with the assistance of the executive secretary, Miriam Robinson, wrote a pageant portraying the 50-year history of Girls' Auxiliary. It was presented on the opening night of the annual meeting. It was a resplendent presentation, with the latest in lighting technology available. It was the first time the women could not pick up

chairs and arrange the platform for themselves. Union employees at the facility had to provide this service. The time and meeting place was March 12-14, 1963, in Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte. A reported 3,000 people were in attendance—the largest number ever.

In addition, the GAs of intermediate age were honored at the North Carolina Queen's Court held at Meredith College, with 411 in attendance. The state WMU promoted involvement in service projects during April, May and June of 1963, and state WMU personnel assisted with the planning of Junior Queens Courts in local associations.

The climactic event for the SBC, GA Celebration was the GA Convention in Memphis, Tennessee in June, 1962. The response was so great that instead of one convention, two additional conventions had to be scheduled. North Carolina had 424 girls in attendance, topping the goal of 300 girls. The high interest was reflected that summer in the 975 GAs who attended camps and Queens Court in North Carolina. The girls contributed \$500 to the new child care center at Cherokee.

In connection with the over-all Jubilee efforts, the executive board and office staff at Camp Rockmont, Black Mountain attended a prayer retreat. Miss Robinson led the retreat, which was based on the scriptures in John 15, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." Mrs. Farmer, then 75 years old, attended. Getting to know Mrs. Farmer was a special blessing for the younger leaders who had known her only second-handedly before then. The days in the beautiful, but rustic setting, were soul stirring and powerful. God's Presence was very real. The time spent at the retreat left an indelible imprint on the lives of the participants. These women continued to live out their commitment to the Lord and to missions in various roles in North Carolina Baptist life and beyond.

Two leadership workshops for associational leaders were planned for Campbell College and three for Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. State promoted workshops for local leaders were discontinued. Funds allocated to them were to be used for the expenses of state personnel, including four chairmen, to assist with associational leadership conferences, as needed.

In 1962 two Interracial Institutes were held with 298 in attendance, 97 African Americans and 201 whites, according to the minutes of the executive board meeting of January 8.

A tour of nursing schools in the state was led by Miss Sara Ann Hobbs, YWA director, accompanied by Dr. Kathleen Jones, Southern

Baptist missionary to Indonesia. Dr. Jones expressed the opinion that this was one of her most successful tours with nursing students. Miss Hobbs did follow-up with campus organizations, especially as they related to missions opportunities.

In the spiritual climate provided by WMU organizations many women began to realize they were important to God. Miss Robinson recalled two examples:

In Mecklenburg (Association) there is a WMU President, Mrs. Robert Staley, who is blind. She has been blind since she was two years old. She and her husband decided together she could do the job. He would read all the *Royal Service* material and any other information before her meetings. She is functioning effectively. Through her influence the entire *WMU Year Book* is being printed in Braille.

Another woman, in Brevard, is 90 years old and is chairman of a missionary society. There are four generations in her immediate family who are members of her missionary union.

Increased emphasis was given to the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

The Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance sponsored this day each November. The European women started the prayer movement in 1948 as a means of mending hearts broken by war, through spiritual communion. The Women's Department officially adopted that day in 1950 and it has continued since that time.

Literacy Missions Launched

In 1963 a new emphasis was started for those who could not read and write. A literacy workshop to train volunteer teachers was held in St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte in February of 1963, and fourteen attended. Kathryn Bullard, WMS director, led another workshop at First Baptist Church, Raleigh. Interest in the literacy program grew rapidly and WMU women throughout the state were involved.

When the State Convention's department of city and metropolitan missions, encouraged by the Home Mission Board, began scheduling workshops, WMU assumed a cooperative role, and helped conduct and provide financial help. More importantly WMU encouraged involvement of the women. Certified volunteer teachers were trained in literacy workshops held throughout the state.

North Carolina became the first state in the nation to launch an all-out attack on illiteracy, with a program operated under the department of community colleges through the division of adult education.

When state government became concerned and began to design ways of meeting the needs, Baptist women were already there. They could be found in almost every area of the state before 1970, and their involvement continued.

In the early days of the literacy efforts in the 1960's, WMU chose to use the Laubach literacy materials. As a student learned to read he read about God's love and His plan of salvation. Many people in North Carolina, through the Christian love shown to them with the literacy efforts, came to know the Lord and were able to read His Word for themselves.

The state governor's goal for every adult to have the opportunity to learn how to read had not only the support of Baptist women, but in many settings they led the way. A big book could be written recording the miracles of the literacy movement. Four of many examples follow:

Mrs. Olna Daves, who had always wanted to be a missionary, felt God's call to become involved in the literacy effort. She lived in Gastonia. Under the direction of the then director of missions, Hoyle Allred (who had already been involved in literacy efforts in Albemarle), she began Literacy Missions in Gaston Baptist Association, with volunteers from the churches. At her death in 1999, it was recorded that she had taught at least 35 individuals to read and had trained 3,000 people to be tutors. Each one is a story in itself. She traveled to several states and overseas to conduct workshops for teachers. She was recognized in the state and nationally for her work to combat illiteracy. She was featured in Newsweek Magazine in 1988. It all began because she was an active member of Woman's Missionary Union in Gaston Association.

Mrs. Sallie Lennon, Wilmington, became involved through her WMU with the support of the Wilmington Baptist Association. Her records indicate she has taught 25 adults to read, led 105 literacy workshops, with about 1600 tutors trained, 32 workshops for English as a Second Language (ESL), with 219 tutors trained. She continued to serve as an ESL tutor in Winter Park Baptist Church and in the first grade of a local school.

Mrs. Mary Allred, pastor's wife living near Edenton, became involved in ministry to the migrants who worked seasonally in that part of the state. She led the WMU women to deliver assistance with health care, literacy, and Bible stories. Her interest in literacy in North Carolina paved the way for her leadership in Tennessee. When

she moved to that state in 1972, organized efforts had not been attempted. She was recognized by the governor of Tennessee after the work had spread, through WMU, across the state. What she considered little was magnified and resulted in "so much more than she could have dreamed or imagined."

Mae Phillips was a homemaker in a textile community in Gastonia. She became involved in literacy and taught several people to read and write. Among her students was a man who held a very responsible position in a large textile company in the county. He was often sent by his company to Germany to help the engineers design and make machines that were needed. A machinist without peer, he had never had the opportunity to learn to read and write. He came regularly for many weeks to meet with Mrs. Phillips in the Flint Groves Baptist Church library. He expressed gratitude for at last being able to read his own Bible for himself. Her commitment to the Lord and his faithfulness in wanting help was another literacy missions success story.

In almost every community of North Carolina countless others have worked long and faithfully to enable people to read and write. Students have seen God's love evidenced in the lives of those who are giving their time and skills to tutor and encourage them. Students in the literacy program all receive Bibles. That Bible has special meaning to them since they can now read it for themselves.

During the summer of 1963 there was a conference for YWAs at Glorieta Conference Center, New Mexico. There was also a youth conference in Europe, with a tour of the Holy Land. The YWA Director, Sara Ann Hobbs, attended the very significant event in Europe. President Sara Parker chaperoned ten YWA girls from North Carolina to the very meaningful conference at Glorieta.

Sandra Parker was serving as president of the state YWA organization at that time and the mother/daughter presidents had the unique experience of hosting the trip. Since North Carolina did not have enough participants to fill a bus, the North Carolina group rode the train to Birmingham and joined the group there to travel to Glorieta by bus. Mrs. Parker remembers the trip. "The bus was so filled that several took turns sitting on bags which were placed in the center aisle. There was no air conditioning. Physically, it was a miserable experience, but spiritually, it was a mountain top experience. Even in the heat and discomfort the girls sang, made friends, wrote songs and enjoyed the trip and the conference."

Mildred McMurry

At the annual session in 1964, in Durham, Mrs. Mildred McMurry, author of *Spiritual Life Development*, led the devotional periods. It was the last meeting for the former wife of a pastor and much loved and appreciated leader of national WMU. She left the meeting to go to Israel at the invitation of the Israeli government. From there she returned home to Birmingham where she died after a brief illness. North Carolina women felt singly blessed to have had her with them such a short time before her promotion to heaven.

Training School Update

North Carolina benefited from the establishment and growth of the WMU Training School in Louisville. Many of NC WMU's staff members had studied there. Many wives of pastors had study opportunities which would not have been available except for the Training School for the women. Mrs. James Heaton, seminary representative, reported to the executive board January 1964, on the changes taking place on that campus.

The original building erected by WMU for the Training School has been named WMU Hall, a residence hall for single women. The administration building of Carver School continues to bear the name of M. T. Rankin Hall and is now used as administration offices and studios of the seminary's School of Church Music. The entire campus is called The W. O. Carver Campus. The new social work program of the seminary, with 23 students, is an outgrowth of the merger of Carver School with Southern Seminary. Dr. Louise Foreman Blount, director of women's activities, reported 570 student wives enrolled. Of these, 311 were employed outside the home. Currently, six are single women from North Carolina.

The importance of mission study continued to be emphasized. Miss Robinson recommended that eight Mission Study Institutes be held: two each at Williamston, Fayetteville, Lexington and Asheville. These were for local and associational mission study chairmen, associational missionaries, pastors and lay people who would be teaching one or more of the books in local churches. A total of 702 teachers were trained.

Since Mrs. Parker lived in Greensboro, she was able to respond to invitations from the east and from the west for associational and regional meetings, Baptist State Convention meetings and assignments, and local churches. She enjoyed the full support of her husband, Dr. A. Leroy Parker, himself a leader among North Carolina Baptists. She recalls the days being filled with much travel. It was a time of joy because of the people she met and with whom she worked. She was in demand as a Sunday morning speaker in the churches and was always able to deliver well God's claims on the lives of people. She encouraged men and women to discover and carry out God's purposes for their lives wherever he might lead them.

Mrs. Parker enjoyed responding to opportunities to speak and work with youth, often taking along a missionary. She was known as a hard worker who did whatever was necessary to afford opportunities for people to learn about missions and their personal responsibility. Her reputation for hard work was gained from the hours spent mopping and cleaning, and cooking for camps for GAs and RAs in the Piedmont Association and elsewhere.

Importance of Professional Staff

Reflecting on her years as president, Mrs. Parker said she depended on the fine professional staff, the executive director, age-level directors, and others who came to the staff for various periods of time to provide ideas for their areas of responsibility. These were always women with a deep commitment to the Lord and the cause of missions. She saw her role as supporting them and helping them implement plans which they felt would meet needs and strengthen the work. Her ideas were always welcomed and they became a part of the planning process. Consensus on direction and specific programs and events meant the associations and local churches received strong leadership training for implementation where the work is actually carried out—in the local church.

North Carolina WMU continued to support and encourage staff and others to share their leadership skills with women in other areas. One example, Sara Ann Hobbs participated in a Christian Service Corps effort in Alaska for three weeks in 1967, using her vacation time.

While vice president of WMU, SBC, Sara Parker served one year as chairman of the committee to select, plan and prepare the theme and materials for the Home Mission Week of Prayer which were used throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The responsibility was so

awesome she said she probably prayed more about that assignment than anything else she did.

As a pastor's wife, Sara Parker was a role model for many young women. She was a mother and WMU officer, and at the same time was giving focused attention to work in the local church. She had earlier served as Young People's Director for WMU in the Piedmont Association, directing camps and retreats, while still teaching a Sunday School class and being involved in Church Training. All was done with a ready smile and a sense of sheer joy at being a part of such endeavors. On one occasion, when outstanding ministers' wives were being recognized, she was referred to as having "dancing eyes." That attitude and spirit of enthusiasm were contagious as her influence reached throughout the state.

Emma Benfield

Emma (Mrs. Knolan) Benfield of Morganton was elected president in 1966. Her interest and involvement in her own church and association and her experience as State Stewardship Chairman prepared her for the challenges that lay before her. As the wife of a pastor, a mother, and experience as a public school teacher, she brought valuable talents and gifts that were used far beyond her own expectations.

Emma Benfield's understanding of the relationship of stewardship and missions was expressed in an early speech.

The love of Christ and the desire to tell others of His love should be our basic motive for giving. An offering has a long reach because it is placed in the hand of God and His arms encircle the world. (*Biblical Recorder*, November 9, 1957)

For several years WMU continued to join Brotherhood in sponsoring World Missions Week at Caswell, with good response. Families came from the mountains to the sea for this special week. A large number of missionaries spent time with youth groups in fellowship and updating their mission work on



Emma Benfield (Mrs. Knolan),
President, 1966-1971

the many fields represented. There was no one week available anywhere else to families where there were so many opportunities to learn about what God was doing through Southern Baptists. Juniors and intermediates responded to God's call to be on mission wherever He might lead. Adult leaders and staff members were confronted with their own priorities as they related to God's purposes for the whole world.

77th Annual Meeting

Mrs. Benfield presided over the 77th session for WMU of NC, held in the City Auditorium in Asheville, March 12-14, 1968. Instructions in the printed programs stated ushers were not to seat or allow anyone to enter the auditorium during designated times such as worship, call to prayer and special music.

On Monday night a fierce, wind driven rain storm descended on the city. Everything loose on the streets blew away and people had great difficulty keeping their footing as they tried to exit the auditorium and travel short distances to nearby hotels and cars. The powerful, drenching storm commanded everyone's attention.

On Tuesday morning Emma Benfield walked to the podium and, without announcement, began quoting William L. Stidger's poem, "I Saw God Wash the World Last Night."

I saw God wash the world last night
With His sweet showers on high,
And then, when morning came, I saw
Him hang it out to dry.

He washed each tiny blade of grass
And every trembling tree,
He flung His showers against the hill,
And swept the billowing sea.
The white rose is a cleaner white,
The red rose is more red,
Since God washed every fragrant face
And put them all to bed.
There's not a bird, there's not a bee
That wings along the way
But is a cleaner bird and bee
Than it was yesterday.

I saw God wash the world last night.
Ah, would He had washed me
As clean of all my dust and dirt
As that old white birch tree.

The audience was spellbound. It was a powerful worship experience. One wondered how she could have been so prepared for that moment, when everyone had just experienced the storm that had not spared anyone or anything. It was an "Only God..." experience.

In 1968 Miriam Robinson ended her service as executive secretary in order to re-enter the teaching field at Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee. Miss Robinson will be remembered for her outstanding leadership capabilities, but perhaps, more importantly, for the awareness those close to her, who walked alongside her, had of her deep and abiding prayer life, her source of strength and direction, and her daily walk with the Master. One said, "To hear her pray is to move with her into the powerful presence of God."

Miss Robinson helped the women not only to develop and fine tune their own leadership skills but also to press toward a vital and ever-growing relationship with the Lord.

New Executive Director

Sara Ann Hobbs, a native of Alabama, came to the position of executive secretary in October 1968. She was well known to the women of North Carolina WMU having served eight years as YWA director and two years as GA director. She received her undergraduate degree from Judson College in Marion Alabama, and her Master of Religious Education degree from the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville, Kentucky. She was later awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Judson College and the Doctor of Divinity degree from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC. While a student at the Carver School of Missions, Sara Ann had studied under Miriam Robinson.



Sara Ann Hobbs, Executive Secretary, 1968-1977

As executive secretary, Sara Ann gave

priority to leadership training. She developed the strategy that the staff would train the associational WMU leadership and then the associational leaders would train the church leadership. This model for training has been used through the years and continues to give NC WMU some of the best trained leaders in WMU.

Sara Ann was creative, courageous and effective in inspiring the women for greater involvement in missions at every level. Her sensitivity to their needs was evident in her planning. She was a risk taker and was always leading WMU to be on the cutting edge of missions education, support and involvement.

She delivered an excellent speech, usually without notes. She was well respected by state and national WMU. Sara Ann became a role model for many women across the state.

History

In May 1970, on recommendation of Betty Gilreath, vice president, a committee was appointed to secure a writer and work out details, including honorarium and date, for a history of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. She stated the history would be brought up to date, beginning with the closing of the period covered by *Hitherto*, by Mrs. Foy J. Farmer. This would give a written history through 1970. In January of 1971 Mrs. Gilreath reported that Mrs. Perry (Kate C. Maddy) Crouch had been secured to write the history.

President Emma Benfield, with her gracious spirit and well-thought out messages, was in much demand to speak in the associations and in local churches, as well as to teach the regularly published mission study books.

In her message to the women meeting in annual session, March 1971, Mrs. Benfield said,

Now it is our time to stand for Christ and to make our contribution to the future...We have a wonderful heritage or we might not be here. What we do NOW will make a difference in the world of tomorrow. God needs women with strong religious faith.

Emma Benfield always spoke with a sense of urgency. This continued even after she left office. As Nancy Curtis was speaking for an associational meeting later in the 70's, where Mrs. Benfield was in attendance,

Nancy noticed Mrs. Benfield was quietly weeping throughout Nancy's message. As she stood alongside Emma after the meeting, Emma said, "It is just that I have so little time left." A hurting heart for missions. She made a difference. This was evidenced in the lives of her children, Bonita Leary, who would later serve as president for WMU of New York, and Knolan, Jr., through his photography skills for missions magazines. It was also evident in the lives of the many, who because of her influence, had a commitment to missions which could never be passive again.

Shaping The 70's

"Shaping the 70's" was a denominational theme that will long be remembered for the intensive training and the far-reaching effect of new concepts for Woman's Missionary Union. WMU was recognized as one of the five church programs, along with Sunday School, Church Training, Music, and Brotherhood. Each organization assumed responsibility for specific tasks in helping the church fulfill her mission of spreading the gospel. The specific tasks of WMU were:

- Teach Missions
- Engage in Mission Action and Personal Witnessing
- Support Missions Through Praying and Giving
- Promote and Interpret the Work of the Church and Denomination

The new concept of correlating church programs resulted in new organizational names, and periodicals with an age-level plan of four divisions, and more uniform church practices.

North Carolina experienced other changes in addition to those initiated by WMU, SBC. A total revision of the By-Laws reduced executive board meetings to three a year, and provided for Approved Workers to assist with leadership training. The Approved Workers would also provide an extra presence and availability for assistance in the associations. Changes were accepted, albeit with some resistance, but with cooperation, nonetheless. The women have continued to follow plans initiated then for fulfilling the purposes of Woman's Missionary Union.

CHAPTER SIX

Not Idle Strollers

1971-1981

Bernice Cross

Bernice (Mrs. Gilmer) Cross of Lexington was elected president in March 1971. She had previously served as state prayer chairman and as first vice president. In response to her election she made the following remarks:

Last night Dr. Edward B. Lindaman said, "The past gives man his possibility."

Little did the Sunbeam Band leader who instilled in me an interest in missions...

Little did the preacher's wife who saw a potential in me and worked at developing that potential...

Little did they realize that I would stand here today.

Little did I realize when it seemed that all doors had slammed shut (following the death of my husband) and I had to find a new life for me, that this door would open to me.

I mention the past now only to see, as Dr. Lindaman said, the possibility for the future.

As we begin this new relationship, let's look at the possibilities you have:

- Instilling an interest in missions in the heart of a child.
- Recognizing the potential in a young person and working at developing it.
- Meeting every situation as an opportunity from God for unbelievable possibilities.
- Every possibility God will make a reality, if we let Him use us — "No, you can't, but God can, through you."

So what I would say to you and to myself, now, is that God

wants what we have to give (from Minutes on file in state WMU office).

On the Sunday before Mrs. Cross's election as state president, First Baptist Church, Lexington, gave a reception in her honor as an expression of their love and their commitment to support her in the new, expanded, and awesome responsibility as state president. In her report at the first executive board meeting over which she presided, she said, "This assurance of their support brings much encouragement to my heart." Shortly after that, her church



*Bernice Cross (Mrs. Gilmer),
President, 1971-1976*

hosted a Mission Action Workshop for women in the state who were interested in a variety of ministries. It provided "know-how" and inspiration for the women. The workshop, with others to follow, made a difference for the participating women and their churches. They not only had a willingness and a commitment to ministry and witness, but were provided training to give them the confidence they needed.

Mrs. Cross reminded the executive board: "...the call of the Gospel is a call to Christ, a call to commitment, a call to service, and a call to prayer" (President's report for September-December 1971).

Mrs. Cross continued to implement the plan of work that had been adopted by North Carolina WMU and Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. Activities of far-reaching value were carried out under the joint leadership of the executive director and the age-level program staff members.

Overnight Baptist Women Retreats were held at Mundo Vista, beginning with two in 1972 and continuing until 1975, when five were held. Kathryn Bullard, Baptist Women Director, felt these retreats were especially significant at a time when women were ready and longing for spiritual nourishment. She said, "In God's timing, He sent one to be His voice to lead us in spiritual growth. Martha Franks was sent by God to touch many, many hearts and women's lives were changed as they had never been changed before."

At the retreats women were introduced to Camp Mundo Vista, which, until then, had only been a GA camp for girls. It became the women's camp, too.

A three-bus-tour was sponsored by NC WMU to the North American Baptist Women's Union meeting in Toronto, Canada, in October 1972.

A MAT (Mission Action Team) composed of ten Acteens and two adults worked in Cherokee in 1971 and in Gastonia in 1972. Leaders and girls were challenged to live and work in settings that were different from those they had known. It was a growth experience for the teams and God used their efforts to accomplish more than they had even imagined.

A team of twelve members from the Mundo Vista summer staff conducted camp leadership training in Barbados.

Two-day camp workshops for leaders from the associations were held in 1972 and 1973 in an effort to increase the number of associational camps offered.

The first Baptist Young Women's Convention was held in Charlotte, October 1-2, 1971, under the direction of Linda Warren, BYW director. It was reported the meeting was "well-attended" and "highly inspirational." These conventions were held annually. They provided training conferences, symposiums, panel discussions, and many missionary speakers, impacting the spiritual lives of the young women. They were a lively group, excited about what Baptist Young Women were doing in their own churches and communities.

WMU leadership trained local leaders in Pennsylvania in October 1973, with three teams of six persons each. A team was assigned to each of the three associations in the state.

Mission Friends leadership workshops were held in 1975 as part of a continuing emphasis on the importance of children.

Ministry at the Correctional Center For Women

A significant relationship for ministry began in 1974 when Kathryn Bullard, Baptist Women's Director, was elected to represent WMU on the Advisory Committee to the Commission of Corrections in North Carolina. When she resigned in 1975, Nancy Curtis, Baptist Young Women's Director, was elected May 14 to succeed her on the Advisory Committee. Women in the state donated Christmas gifts for residents at the Correctional Center for Women in Raleigh, the only facility for women at that time. This became an annual project.

This ministry was enlarged as the trust level grew between the women of WMU and the staff at the Women's Correctional Center. Nancy Curtis, Jan High, Carolyn Hopkins, Suthell Walker and other



Pina and Bob Maynard, Marcia McQueen, and others packing red Christmas boxes for NCCCW

staff members were allowed to work one-on-one with inmates, usually those who were being prepared to go back out into work places and the world.

In addition, extensive training was given to a group of interested volunteers for work with the incarcerated and soon-to-be-released women. Training was provided at the Baptist Building and also inside the Correctional Center, a first ever cooperative relationship with an outside organization. This reflected the high regard and trust placed in the WMU staff members who were involved in this ministry as well as the genuine concern of the women to show Christian love where many had never experienced it before.

Women in the state became involved in helping those who were released back into their communities to choose not to return to the relationships that had caused their incarceration. Baptist women reported varying degrees of success in such things as getting the women into church relationships, jobs, and places to live. Women in Raleigh, including some staff members, became sponsors. This meant that from time to time they were allowed to take carefully selected honor grade inmates, with whom they had built a visiting relationship, away from the facility for some special activity, such as going out to eat, or going into a grocery store—maybe for the first time in many years.

Witnessing in this ministry was challenging as it provided the first Christian witness and expression of caring some of the women had ever

known. This has been an ongoing ministry with different emphases for ministry at different times and with varying degrees of participation of program staff people, board members and others. There have been many success stories of changed and reclaimed lives as Baptist women have given of themselves in Christian love and shared the Good News of Jesus with these special women.

WMU Leaders at Work

Known and respected in ever widening circles, Mrs. Cross and Sara Ann Hobbs usually led the training for associational WMU directors and associates. They, along with other program staff, also led conferences at Ridgecrest for WMU, SBC. All of the program staff members led conferences for their associational counterparts, as well as some specialized conferences in North Carolina, and in other states.

The president and executive director received many invitations to be a part of the annual meetings in the associations throughout the state. Wherever they went they always expressed appreciation to the women for their help in meeting the goal for the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering. The ongoing work of the state organization was dependent on the success of this offering.

Mrs. Cross became a valuable member of Baptist State Convention and WMU, SBC committees while she served as state president. These opportunities increased as her spiritual depth, knowledge of Baptist life, and commitment to the Lord and His purposes were soon clear to everyone in Baptist life.

As a vice president of WMU, SBC, she served on a committee to plan for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions in 1973 and for Home Missions in 1974. Nine state presidents from Arizona to Florida to Pennsylvania worked long days and nights to present plans for these two history-changing happenings in the churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Cross had the distinction of serving on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and on the Committee on Order of Business for the SBC's annual meeting. She led conferences near and far for different groups including WMU and general associational meetings, meetings in other states, meetings for deacons, and meetings for ministers' wives. Many who attended the Baptist Women's Retreats will remember her leadership at vesper times and morning devotions.

The officers and staff members received many invitations to lead

prayer retreats in associations and local churches. One retreat was held in Swannsboro on a porch overlooking the beautiful water. Mrs. Cross led a morning and afternoon prayer retreat and a second retreat beginning with a covered dish supper. More than one hundred people attended.

During these years Baptist Young Women's organizations under the direction of Linda Warren and Nancy Curtis continued to grow rapidly. There were 750 organizations in the state. This was encouraging to those committed to helping develop leaders for tomorrow, as well as helping young women find their places in God's plan for the world. The young women being reached were among the finest anywhere and had deep, abiding relationships with the Lord.

Before the annual meeting in Winston-Salem in 1974, Mrs. Thurman Fox arranged for a television appearance for Mrs. Cross, the presiding officer for the upcoming meeting. It was a first experience for Mrs. Cross and was great publicity for the meeting with her explanation of the purposes of Woman's Missionary Union. She used an acrostic to be better understood and remembered.

At the annual meeting in Charlotte, March 11-13, 1975, Miss June Whitlow, assistant to the executive secretary of WMU, SBC, represented the national staff and brought a memorable message in which she recalled the early beginnings of the organization of Woman's Missionary Union, May 14, 1888. "But," she continued, "we have the same message today as we did then. Today's Baptist Women are not idle strollers watching the world go by, but are active Christians involved in the affairs of the world" (*Biblical Recorder*, March 22, 1975).

Sara Ann Hobbs, as executive director, continued to use her myriad leadership skills in challenging and inspiring ways.

One of the first things Sara Ann did as executive director was to visit Dr. Perry Crouch, then executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, to endeavor to get salaries for WMU staff members on an equal basis with the men in comparable positions. It did not happen immediately but some progress was made from that time forward.

The program committee for the 1975 North Carolina Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting in Charlotte asked Miss Hobbs to bring one of the major addresses of the convention. Her subject was, "Sharing in My Day." She declared "that we have moved forward because of the divine command of Christ, but that historic necessity was also thrust upon us through the Baptist position being accepted by Adoniram Judson and Luther Rice following the twenty years of work of William Carey in India."

Miss Hobbs called attention to the many opportunities open to women today. She cited Miss Emma Cooke, retired school teacher who had already spoken on the convention program. Miss Cooke had become an associate with the Foreign Mission Board, assigned to Lebanon, and was teaching English in a mission school attended by Muslims, Catholics and Protestants. She had reported that “many learn to love Jesus through the school while they are there.”

Miss Hobbs used her own life to show how God leads women today into new and exciting fields. She cited her experiences of “chopping cotton” in a southern Georgia cotton patch as a child, watching an occasional airplane overhead, and wondering where it might be going. “At that time,” she said, “I never dreamed I’d someday be in Raleigh, North Carolina, much less have the privilege of visiting Tokyo or Jakarta.” She challenged the women to consider short term mission opportunities, no matter what period of life they might be in, as well as to consider career mission opportunities. She said, “We have the opportunities, not because we are better, but because we are sensitive to missions...we have more to give, more time to give, and more knowledge of the world. If Baptist women would give \$290 a year to missions, we could finance the entire Foreign Mission Board for a year...And if every NC Baptist would give \$150 per year, we could finance the entire SBC program” (*Biblical Recorder*, March 22, 1975, p. 5).

Another “first” came during this period with the employment of the first resident manager at Camp Mundo Vista. Tommy and Peggy Bridges began work at Mundo Vista January 1, 1976 (see chapter 10). Prior to their coming, Jason and Margie Lee had lived in a small apartment under the dining hall. Their responsibilities related to improvement and maintenance of the grounds and facilities. They worked hard to be ready for each program event until January 1976.

At the last annual meeting over which Mrs. Cross presided she expressed appreciation for the unsung heroes who really accomplish the progress in WMU - those who labor quietly and faithfully. She also expressed concern about enthusiasm and commitment and warned that “we are always just one generation away from missionary unconcern.” She reminded the women that with “every possibility God will make a reality if we let Him use us.”

God still calls us—each one of us.

We know the love of God and the saving power of Christ.

Wherever there is a need, that need becomes our opportunity.
I have felt what WMU can do.
I have seen what WMU can do.
I shall continue to serve God through WMU with all my heart
(from Mrs. Cross' handwritten notes).
And she did!

With the spiritual gift of hospitality, Bernice Cross continued to express deep appreciation for the WMU staff as she insisted her house be "the" lunch break on their long trips from east to west, Raleigh to Fruitland. Good food and good fellowship was always there for all.

Betty Gilreath

Betty Gilreath (Mrs. J. Frank, Jr), of Charlotte, was elected president at the annual session held in Greensboro March 16-17, 1976. She went to her new responsibilities with the strong support of the Saint John's Baptist Church of Charlotte, where, with her family, she had long been involved with the education of youth and missions efforts. This was good preparation for her continuing leadership role in the state where she had been serving through Woman's Missionary Union as community missions chairman. She had served earlier in that capacity in the Charlotte region.

As president, Betty attended the regular meetings of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention and WMU, SBC, meetings, along with committees of many different kinds in Baptist life. She also attended the North American Baptist Women's Union Assembly in October 1977, in Freeport, Grand Bahama. North Carolina women had served as participants and encouragers to this expanded organization of Baptist women under the Baptist World Alliance, attending meetings held every five years.

Betty Gilreath emphasized the need to support missions by praying and giving, and also to *do* missions, with hands-on involvement in ministry and witness in the local church and association, and beyond state borders. As community missions chairman



*Betty Gilreath (Mrs. J. Frank),
President, 1976-1981*

she led the women of the state in a fight against pornography and its availability to children. She encouraged the women to be actively involved in their communities by having such damaging literature removed from the shelves of grocery and drug stores.

In 1977 Executive Director Sara Ann Hobbs was named as associate for estate planning for the Baptist Foundation of North Carolina. She continued as a consultant, without pay, to the WMU until a new executive director could be secured. She had long had an interest in what women, who were faithful stewards, had the potential for doing for the cause of missions. Using this position, Sara Ann would be able to work with women in assisting them in planning their estates in such a way as to conserve their resources through income tax savings, estate tax savings, and charitable giving. Her major goal was to save women money so that they had more money to give to missions! Sara Ann was the first person to hold the position of director of estate planning with the Foundation. On March 8, 1978, WMU gave a reception to honor Sara Ann Hobbs on her twentieth anniversary with the Baptist State Convention, nineteen of which had been spent with Woman's Missionary Union. Miss Hobbs had recently been named director for the Missions Division of the Baptist State Convention, the first woman to be named to such a position in any state. WMU took pride in Hobbs' new assignment and felt her years with WMU had been God's way of preparing her for the new challenge of leading men and women in the churches into greater support for and involvement in missions. She had gone to her new responsibilities with the full support of the WMU organization she had served so well for so long.

As a result of her work with the Baptist Foundation of North Carolina, Sara Ann recommended to WMU, SBC, that they consider the possibility of establishing a foundation or other financial structure to make it possible for the women of the South to begin contributing to the ongoing work of WMU even after they are gone. This advice was followed.

From February to April 1977, Betty traveled one to two days a week to the WMU office in Raleigh to work alongside the professional staff until a new executive director was in place. Betty commended the staff for the fine way in which they continued to carry out their responsibilities.



*Nancy Curtis, Executive
Director, 1977-1993*

Nancy Curtis

On August 16, 1977 Nancy Curtis, then serving as director of Baptist Young Women, was elected executive director. Curtis was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Curtis. Although born in Santa Ana, California, she said, "I am really a New Mexican." She received her education at Oklahoma Baptist University, New Mexico Highland University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She taught public school in New Mexico for ten years (1959-69), in Texas public schools for two years and served as director of youth ministries in Dallas, Texas. She joined the North Carolina staff in 1973.

Nancy Curtis was uniquely gifted for her new role as executive director. She brought to that position a keen, analytical mind, and a deep personal commitment to missions, WMU-style.

It did not take Betty Gilreath, president, and the new executive director, Nancy Curtis, long to identify each other's strengths as they worked together. Using their individual, God-given gifts, they moved ahead with the challenge to train the children, support missions, and involve women in missions.

Nona Kay Bickerstaff succeeded Nancy Curtis as BYW director. Nona Kay had been a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board and on the staff of two North Carolina churches before coming to this position. She demonstrated her love for all kinds of people by the ways in which she became involved in ministries beyond her daily staff responsibilities.

The WMU staff worked closely with and identified the needs of the women in the local church who were involved in missions. A good example was the work of Suthell Walker who joined the staff in December 1975 as director for Baptist Women. She saw the need to create an organization between Baptist Young Women (BYW) and Baptist Women.

So Young Baptist Women (ages 30-45) came into being for those who were not comfortable being in the same group with their mothers and grandmothers. Both age groups continued to function well and to grow in many churches in North Carolina. WMU, SBC, did not use this plan, but did increase the age for Baptist Young Women to 35.

Young Baptist Women's Retreats were held under the direction of

Suthell Walker. Each event for the groups, which were repeated from the previous year, showed growth in attendance and enthusiasm.

Continuing on the cutting edge of Baptist life, officers and staff sponsored, or participated in, various seminars and conferences. Among these were:

- An Ecumenical Institute at Lake Junaluska in December 1977, for dialogue involving Methodists, Catholics and Baptists. This was in cooperation with the City and Metropolitan Missions Department of the Baptist State Convention.
- A conference held in Raleigh on Changing Roles of Women, sponsored jointly by WMU and the Department of Christian Life and Public Affairs of the Baptist State Convention. This was a first and was considered very worthwhile.
- Leadership conference conducted by Dr. Bruce Powers, professor of Christian Education at Southeastern Seminary.
- North Carolina Christian Life Conference, entitled "'Tis a Gift to be Simple—Developing a Responsible Lifestyle." This was held at Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem.

In an effort to meet the needs of the wide range of women's groups in the state, retreats and conferences were held for specific target groups including:

- GA/Mission Friends leaders (where enthusiasm and excitement were evident related to the groups with which they worked in the local church and/or association)
- Couples (where conference leaders sensed the deepening spiritual commitment and joy of meeting with other couples with like interests.) Their horizons were lifted to see mission opportunities and challenges as couples.
- Retreat for Career and Professional Women at Ridgecrest.
- Churchmanship Seminar in cooperation with the Baptist State Convention to encourage women to participate in the total effort of their churches. The biblical message related to the church was studied and commitments made for greater involvement in helping the church to grow and become stronger.

On October 9, 1979, WMU honored Marse Grant, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, and his staff, expressing appreciation for the ongoing, supportive relationship between the state paper and Woman's Missionary Union. The *Biblical Recorder* had given encouragement and support to the women from the earliest days of their efforts to organize women for missions. Marian Grant (Mrs. Marse) served WMU on the executive board and as recording secretary.

North Carolina WMU leadership led in providing opportunities for North Carolina women to assist leadership in other states. As a part of Bold Mission Thrust, and in particular the North Central Missions Thrust, North Carolina WMU sent teams of staff and volunteer members to help with leadership training in Ohio. Leading the three teams for the three weeks, along with members of the staff, were Betty Gilreath, president, Bernice Cross, former president, (both of whom spent three weeks), Norma Lewis, Wilmington (for two weeks), Patsy Campbell, Belmont, Anne Carter, Greensboro, state GA approved worker (for one week).

The Convention of Ohio had 456 churches and 100 missions. In reporting to the executive board the president said she had driven 2,742 miles. She commented, "We may never know the results of our efforts in Ohio, but working with the people in their churches has made an impact on the lives of those of us who participated."

Another hands-on missions effort was providing a team to go to New York to train WMU leadership in and around New York City. The team members learned the churches there were small. There were long distances between churches and traffic was a factor in getting from one place to another. There were few Baptist churches, and there were millions of people in the area indifferent to the Christian church. On their return the team issued a call to prayer and continued concern for the work in New York.

Always trying to be sensitive to changing conditions for women, and in order to determine the feasibility of a different schedule, the executive board authorized the January 1981 executive board meeting to be held on Friday and Saturday. The response was positive, making it possible for working women and women with young children to serve on the board. This proved to be a significant change.

At the January 1981, Executive Board meeting of WMU, SBC, Betty Gilreath was named to chair the Relocation Committee for the national offices of Woman's Missionary Union. This included the sale of the down-

town office building in Birmingham. The women continued to pray for just the right location. Some of the most desirable property in the Birmingham area became available to them.

The property, located on a mountain top that was renamed Missionary Ridge, was designed to be a beautiful and functional office building. It included offices for the national WMU organization. Its functional space provided for committees, planning groups, executive board meetings, denominational functions and other meetings hosted by WMU. Its setting reminds those who enter of the purpose of the building and WMU. In the center foyer is a large copper globe which reaches into the second story of the building. It beautifully states the purpose: World Missions.

From this place, with each room highlighting some state or mission area, a walk through the building is a walk through what Baptists are doing around the world. North Carolina furnished a large, beautifully decorated conference room, known as the Fannie E. S. Heck Conference Room. Miss Heck's picture is on one of the walls and furniture for the room was made in North Carolina.

Although many artifacts from the past have found a home in this building, those who visit are aware this is a place where wonderful, God-honoring, God-empowered events are planned and shared with a mighty army of women who are seeking to hear God's voice and to heed His guidance in claiming a struggling world for Jesus Christ today. No one can visit this \$6,000,000 building completed and dedicated on June 1, 1984, without feeling God's presence and power. (Author's note: Each person who has the opportunity to visit the building should do so. Tours are conducted, as needed.)

Betty Gilreath continued to serve on the WMU, SBC committee beyond her service as president in North Carolina, and did North Carolina women proud as she worked long and hard alongside Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC, Catherine Allen, and the entire hard-working staff in Birmingham to bring about the prayed for, carefully planned and completed building. It is a lighthouse lighting the way for Woman's Missionary Union around the world.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God

1981-1991

Bea McRae

In March 1981, Beatrice McNeill McRae (Mrs. Horace), was elected president. She had been groomed and nurtured well to lead women of North Carolina to continue the good work they had begun in Woman's Missionary Union and to lead in the celebration of the first one hundred years of their existence as an organization.

It was at the knee of her Sunbeam leader-grandmother that Bea McNeill first saw pictures and heard stories from the Bible and from missionaries. Her early memories include going with her mother to WMS meetings; then, as a young adult, being enlisted by other young adults to become involved in Woman's Missionary Union.

After becoming a Christian at the age of twelve, Bea became aware of God's leadership in her life as she grew up in the Holly Springs Baptist Church in Broadway. That awareness continued as she went to college to prepare to teach.

Through her teaching years she continued to have an awareness of God's leadership and His continual unfolding of new dimensions for her as He brought Horace McRae into her life. Horace had grown up with the same kind of nurturing and Christian background as Bea. God blessed



*Bea McRae (Mrs. Horace),
President, 1981-1986*

their lives, sending two beautiful children, Bradford Lawrence and Alisa Ann.

For ten years prior to being elected president of North Carolina's Woman's Missionary Union McRae was actively involved in WMU work in First Baptist Church, Lumberton, and as WMU director of Robeson Baptist Association (1973-1978). She served as first vice president of the state WMU from 1980-1981. She later served as co-chairman WMU, SBC for the Dated Plan Work Group from 1987-1989.

Bea had become excited about convention-wide plans for Bold Missions Thrust and realized if the goal to share the love of God with all the people in the world was to become a reality, "it was up to me and up to each believer. I wanted to be a part of that," she said (from personal interview and written testimony).

In a quiet time with God she said, "Lord, you know my situation, my family responsibilities, my limitations, my hang-ups, and oh, yes, you know my potential. In light of this if you can use me, Lord, I am available. Use me in any way you choose to share your love."

She recalled a quotation she had heard: "Always welcome the opportunity to go beyond yourself." When she was asked to serve as president, she said, "Lord, isn't that a bit ridiculous?" His Spirit responded, "Are you still available?"

The phrase "make yourself available" became something of a theme song during Bea McRae's presidency. In almost every setting where she had opportunity to speak, formally or informally, God used her words to challenge women to make themselves available to God, to the end "that He might be glorified and His name proclaimed throughout the earth."

As she served, along with the executive director and other called out and committed to missions women who served on the state WMU staff and executive board, she realized she was part of something much bigger than the local church's involvement in missions.

Associating with women across the state made me realize I was a part of a sisterhood that spread throughout the state...Involvement with WMU, SBC, led me to understand that the sisterhood of missions involvement spread throughout our country. In visiting in Togo and Panama and in 1980 attending the Baptist World Alliance meeting, I came to realize that this sisterhood encircles the world. I have gathered

inspiration and encouragement from realizing we are all seeking to be "Laborers together with God" in our local setting and in doing so are a part of helping to share the gospel with the whole world! That's exciting!

When asked about her leadership style, Bea said it could be identified as "together we do it." She was a visionary leader but realized others had to buy into ideas. She was a planner, and also one who recognized the importance of details.

The age-level directors on the staff had the prime responsibility for originating and developing ideas for helping their organization accomplish its own goals as well as the goals of all the women who made up Woman's Missionary Union. Most of the employed directors were single women who had made lifetime commitments to missions. Their work was all consuming and they held nothing back while using their very special spiritual gifts, talents and time.

Suthell Walker, Baptist Women Director/Consultant, was just one example as she led a major mission action thrust to reach unchurched children using Big A Clubs. To be able to train leaders over the state to start Big A Clubs she felt she needed to see one in action. She met with men and women from Crabtree Valley Baptist Church. Raleigh, across the street from her apartment complex. After spending several weeks training and planning with the team, Charlene Ray (Mrs. Cecil) and her daughter, Susan, agreed to direct the club each Saturday. This was a challenging but rewarding effort. Suthell coordinated Big A Club training for Southeastern Seminary students, summer missionaries, associations and local churches.

One of the many Big A Clubs started over the state grew into a church. Sybil Williams, Hollister, heard Suthell talk about the results of Big A Clubs and decided to start one in her home which was next door to her church. Three children accepted Christ and were baptized by her pastor in her backyard pool. Sybil felt the children needed to be in the church activities. These children were Native Americans and African Americans.

Several members of the church quoted the church constitution which said "no blacks allowed" so Sybil and several other members decided to start a church in Sybil's home. In a short time so many were attending that the house, garage and patio could no longer hold them. A piece of land was donated and a church was built.

Southeastern Seminary provided a preacher, minister of music and Sunday School teachers.

North Carolina was often commended by leadership of other states for the superior staff which it always seemed to have. Through the years that has been one of the evidences of God's continued blessing upon the women involved in missions in North Carolina. He has raised up and called out so many who have been nurtured through the youth missions organizations of the state and/or other states. The success of the longtime focus on working with our children has borne fruit in continually providing and strengthening ongoing leadership.

Age-level counterparts in the churches were trained in the latest teaching and leadership skills. Many of the women in the churches were already teachers or leaders in the secular world as well as the local churches. What took place across the state, from the smallest church to the largest, was phenomenal.

Evidence of the success of missions education through monthly programs, Bible studies, missions literature and inspirational meetings of the WMU organizations, could be seen as God led individuals, mission groups and churches to respond to specific needs that had not been recognized before this increased awareness. Here is one example of how God was moving through WMU to accomplish His purposes in the world:

Saralyn Collins, a homemaker and concerned Baptist woman, felt impressed to make tapes in her home of *Royal Service* programs and information, devotional thoughts, sometimes music and news of North Carolina WMU, for distribution to the legally blind in the state. She made the tapes each month and sent them to Suthell Walker, Baptist Women's director in North Carolina, for reproduction and mailing. This was a ministry that lasted for a number of years and had over 100 people on the mailing list.

Partnership missions were introduced: one state or association becoming a partner with another state or another country or people's group. Jim Greene, of the Baptist State Convention, often presented the challenge for volunteers to participate in partnership missions. On one occasion, after speaking in a WMU meeting, he met Corinne Harris coming forward to make her commitment to be a volunteer.

She was weeping and crying, saying, "But I have never left Billy (her husband)." And that was true. They had never been apart a single night since their marriage many years before. It was also difficult for Billy to say "okay," but he did. In response to God's call to partnership missions, Corinne Harris teamed with Mary Rowe, then chairman of the Camp Committee, and went to Togo, West Africa. This was the first of many volunteer experiences for these two. Many other volunteers followed them.

The age-level directors, president, and executive director were all called upon throughout the year to speak in associations and local churches. Much time was spent in travel.

An example of their travel and speaking opportunities was the report of Bea McRae to the executive board for the year 1982. Traveling from her home in Lumberton she had filled speaking engagements from Murfreesboro in the east to Weaverville in the west, in 31 different churches or associations. These engagements were in addition to the state planned leadership conferences.

In connection with the WMU, SBC, executive board meeting, and annual session in New Orleans, Bea McRae served as convener for a Missions Concern Conference on "Opening the Door for Women in Ministry."

At this same 1982 annual session Bea McRae was appointed as Centennial Chairman for WMU, SBC, looking to the 1988 Celebration in Richmond, Virginia.

At the Southern Baptist Convention annual, meeting immediately following the WMU annual session, Bea McRae had the prayer of benediction at the conclusion of the Thursday morning session.

Nancy Curtis' 11th Anniversary

The WMU of NC executive board recognized Nancy Curtis as they marked her eleventh year of service with WMU, first as BYW director and then for six years as executive director. Bea McRae said, "Nancy has shown a commitment you can't buy, living her work 24 hours a day" (Board minutes).

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

At the annual session in 1983 at Ridgecrest, 22 nurses met with Dr. Ellen Tabor, former foreign missionary. Their stated purpose was to go to the mission field to help when extra nursing is needed for one, two,

or three weeks. Barbara Spangler, from the group, said, "Let us go under the sponsorship of Woman's Missionary Union, not for finances but for prayer support." This was approved (see chapter 8).

In September 1983, the North Carolina Acteens Advisory Panel was established. Six girls would be selected each year, two each from three areas: mountains, Piedmont and coast. The girls who served on this strategic, decision making panel made a difference in the organization and were forever changed in their own commitments to missions.

At the request of the Foreign Mission Board, two WMU staff members were provided to assist in responding to specific requests from the field: Leland Bingham, Mundo Vista resident manager, to Chile and Pat Ritchie, GA director, to Venezuela.

With Mrs. McRae's last year of service the first 100 years of organized existence for Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina was completed. Tremendous effort was put into the planning for the year of celebration, 1986. Many people were involved. The elected president and the executive director carried heavy responsibilities. The entire WMU staff and the executive board members (elected from every region of the state) spent many hours praying, planning and working for the special year of celebration.

A special Centennial Committee was named: Bernice Cross, chairman, along with Emma Benfield, Saralyn Collins, Elsie Davis, Helene Davis, Mary Lily Gaddy, Velma McGee, Frances Riley and Corinne Thorud.

As chairman of the Centennial Celebration Committee, Mrs. Cross presented plans for the observance:

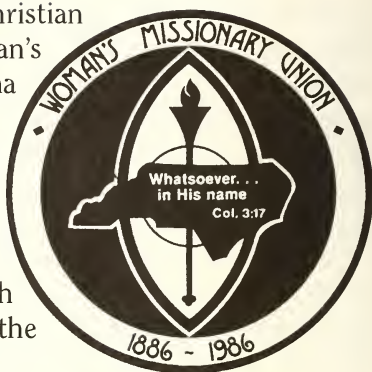
Anniversary goals were:

1. To create an awareness of our WMU heritage; to create opportunities for numerical growth through enlistment and enlargement; faith, and wisdom of courageous women whose devoted service laid an enduring foundation.
2. To look forward, discerning our work for the years ahead, and committing ourselves to wise planning and faithful performance in the continuing missionary task.
3. To look upward to God, admitting our need, wanting to do His will, seeking to follow where He leads.

A Centennial logo was designed and interpreted by Judy Graves LeCroy of Lexington.

Just as the cross is central to the Christian faith, so it is the focus of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina Centennial logo.

In this logo, a cross is formed by the scriptural theme, "Whatsoever . . . in His Name" (Col. 3:17), as the horizontal piece and the torch as the upright. The torch exemplifies Jesus, the light of the world. He has given us this torch, and our response is to do faithfully "whatsoever . . . in His name."



NC Centennial Logo

Together the two pieces of the cross reach horizontally into every area of North Carolina and vertically to the very poles of the earth.

The double fish head identifies us to the world as followers of Christ. Surrounding the whole is a large circle symbolic of the all-encompassing love of God which has been proclaimed by Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina with dedication and integrity for a century.

As a part of the celebration, Corinne Thorud, Edenton, prepared a one-half hour presentation containing facts and figures of North Carolina WMU's first 100 years. The suggested program was entitled "A WMU Fashion Sketch." The fashion outlines which could be copied for dresses, or used as a projected visual, were done by Mrs. Edward G. Bond of Edenton.

The manuscript was filled with historical facts related to the times, the fashions, and the movement of God's hand upon the women across the 100 years. It was widely used and was presented in almost every association for the annual meeting and in many churches. Usually it was a churchwide experience. More people, men and women, became aware of and had a deepened appreciation for what God was doing through the simple beginnings of a few women, girls and preschoolers. The combined membership grew to 141,545 in 10,568 organizations in 1986.

It was fitting that the annual meeting in 1986 be held in Raleigh, the city in which the organization was born. Growth over the years

had made such a difference in the amount of housing needed for those attending and the size of the place to meet.

The meeting was held April 17-19, 1986 in the recently completed Civic Center in downtown Raleigh. The hotels were bustling. Many women drove themselves, and others from their churches. Some came for specific sessions, but most settled in for the entire length of the meetings. They did not want to miss any of it.

Tours were planned to places of historical significance, including the placing of flowers on the graves of Fannie E. S. Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. Plaques were placed on their markers commemorating the Centennial year of the beginning of the organization. The markers were identical except for the wording:

“Centennial Memorial to Fannie E. S. Heck, First President, NC Woman’s Missionary Union 1986”

“Centennial Memorial to Sallie Bailey Jones, First Corresponding Secretary, NC Woman’s Missionary Union 1986”

Another tour went to the campus of Meredith College where the fountain given by WMU many years before had been repaired and refurbished for the Celebration. Prayers of thanksgiving and celebration were heard at these, and other, stops on the tours as groups of women gathered.

Attendance for the three-day meeting reached 3,056 registrants (minutes of Baptist State Convention, 1986). Every area of the state was well represented. A banquet was held for associational leadership.

Mrs. Beatrice McRae presided over the historic meeting. Opening night featured a Flag Processional, with flags representing the nations of the world—a colorful and emotional presentation as the women were reminded that what had begun in Raleigh one hundred years ago had impacted the whole world.

“Those Were the Days” were recalled by former staff members: Sara Ann Hobbs, Nona Kay Bickerstaff, Maxine Bumgarner, Kathryn Bullard, Ruth Provence and Pat Ritchie. “Those Were the Days” was also featured on Friday afternoon with remembrances of earlier years by former presidents: Betty Gilreath, Mabel Claire Maddrey, Velma McGee, Sara Parker and Bernice Cross.

Focus was placed on the importance of age-level organizations: on Thursday night, Young Woman’s Auxiliary and Acteens, with Carolyn Hopkins and Michele Moore; Friday morning, Girls Auxiliary and Girls in Action, with Jan High and Ann and Nesha Bartholomew; Friday after-

noon, Sunbeams and Mission Friends, with Melinda Spencer, and WMS, Baptist Women with Suthell Walker and Kathryn Bullard.

Dr. Roy Smith, executive director of the Baptist State Convention, gave a "Challenge for the Future." Suedell Bedsaul, president of the North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship reported on this ministry organization. Bertie Ann Baggett Yates, North Carolina missionary to Kenya, led the prayer time each session.

Other program speakers were Charles McMillan, director of missions for Raleigh Association, Thelma Horton and Luella Edwards from the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, and Dr. Gene Puckett, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*.

The "Contribution of Woman's Missionary Union to Home Missions" was presented in a moving and memorable way by one who always seemed to have a special place in the hearts of North Carolina WMU members, Wendell Belew. Dorothy Sample, president of WMU, SBC, spoke on "Meeting Today's Challenge," a thought-provoking message.

The Friday night session will long be remembered by the capacity crowd in the Civic Center. The drama, "And Here Begins the Day," was a phenomenal experience for everyone. Written by Carolyn Robinson, Raleigh, and directed by Saralyn Collins, Greensboro, it was a spectacular, professional-quality event. Unforgettable.

The celebration closed Saturday morning with Dr. Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC, speaking on the subject of "WMU in the Second Century."

The newly elected president, Dorothy (Dot) Allred, and Nancy Curtis, executive director, joined in a responsive reading of their commitment in joint leadership roles to lead the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina into the next century.

Celebrating and giving thanks for a century begun by Fannie E. S. Heck and other foremothers was indeed a special privilege and blessing for North Carolina WMU. This occasion provided the stimulus for renewed commitment by women all across the state to take seriously their responsibility and choice opportunity to be "laborers together with God" in the second century.

North Carolina's Centennial Celebration was observed two years before the celebration of the organization of WMU, SBC. That historical event would be held in Richmond, Virginia in 1988 under the direction of North Carolina's Bea McRae, chairman of the Centennial Committee.

Dot Allred (1986-1991)

At the close of 100 days of prayer and a spectacular, unforgettable, three-day celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, held appropriately in the city of Raleigh, April 17-19, 1986, Dorothy (Dot) Allred (Mrs. Hoyle T.), of Gastonia, was elected president.

The president was the elected leader but had a full staff of people whom God had prepared for full-time Christian service by reason of personal commitment and education. Leadership in North Carolina, at its best, was team leadership. Team identified the leadership style of Nancy Curtis, executive director, and the new president. This would be evident in the goal



*Dorothy Allred (Mrs. Hoyle),
President, 1986-1991*

setting, events scheduled for various age groups, training of church and associational leaders, relationships with other women's groups, the Baptist State Convention, and support of North Carolina missionaries under appointment.

The momentum of the days was not lost on this new president as she marveled at how God could take a very ordinary woman and place her in such an awesome, strategic place of leadership. She was often heard to say, "I am an ordinary woman, but I do have an extraordinary God."

Dot Allred had served for five years as mission study chairman, as second vice president 1971-74, and as first vice president 1976-80 and 1985-86. At the time of her election as president she was serving as a member of the executive committee of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention, and had served on the search committee to secure a new executive director-treasurer for the Convention. Her pastor-director of missions-husband had been her greatest encourager and source of inspiration through the years. He received his promotion to heaven in 1984.

In tracing her Christian pilgrimage, Dot said God had chosen to "grow her up" in the missions organizations of Asheboro Street Baptist Church (now Friendly Avenue Baptist Church) in Greensboro. Taken to church in the arms of her parents, Ernest and Lillie Powers Purvis, she became involved in GAs at the age of nine. There she memorized scripture verses so she could tell someone else how to become a Christian.

She soon realized that was not good enough. She had to respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in her own life. This led to her personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In GAs she learned to pray for people she did not know, who lived in places she could not spell and, often, could not pronounce, and that God expected her to do that.

As an intermediate GA and then as a YWA she was increasingly aware of how God had purpose for every life, including her own. She participated in drama in the church, on two occasions playing the role of a woman missionary going out to the mission field with her husband, Henrietta Hall Shuck and Ann Judson. The commitment evidenced by those women impacted her life. On her first trip to Ridgecrest Conference Center (YWA Week 1938), she made a commitment to God to go through doors He opened for her. Her prayer, still sustained today, was, "Lord, make it real plain...so I know it is You opening the door...so I don't make a mistake." Her testimony is she has spent a lifetime doing just that...walking through His doors.

The story of her lifetime journey would not be believable without acknowledging the truth of North Carolina WMU's inspired permanent motto: "For ye serve the Lord Christ." Dot said, "I came to see that in my inadequacies God's power was going to be seen more clearly, just as He had promised in His Word. Can you imagine that!"

Also elected at the centennial meeting in 1986 were Ann (Mrs. Sanford) Smith, Greensboro, first vice president; Donice (Mrs. J. D.) Harrod, High Point, second vice president; Mary (Mrs. Alfred) Stancil, Rocky Mount, recording secretary, and Shannon Wyrick, Greensboro, assistant recording secretary.

Composing the staff were:

Executive Director, Nancy Curtis
 Baptist Women Consultant, Suthell Walker
 Mission Friends/BYW Consultant, (position vacant)
 Acteens Consultant, Carolyn Hopkins
 Girls in Action Consultant, Jan High
 Camp Resident Manager, Leland Bingham
 Camp Director/Consultant, Tammy Herring
 Administrative Assistant, Kay Bisette
 Secretary/Receptionist, Belle Wilson
 Financial Secretary, Diane Hurlbut
 Secretary, Violet Matthews

The state leadership met with the events, messages and drama of the centennial meeting still fresh and penetrating in their minds and hearts. They had heard Dr. William O'Brien, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, call on Baptist women to lead the Southern Baptist Convention from controversy and division to new levels of commitment and unity. He asserted:

The North Carolina attempt to create a Woman's Central Committee was aborted because there was dissension among the men. And now, one hundred years later, what's new? I call on you again, ladies, rise to the lofty position of servanthood and lead us out of this mess. We have lost our way...Christ did not call us to build an ecclesiastical empire. He mandated us to help extend the Kingdom...Women must get a 'God's eye view of the world.' He said that such a view comes from getting back to basics and the Word of God... "God is up to something bigger than all of us put together." He pointed out that Miss Heck had said we were to be prayerful and joyful.

O'Brien paraphrased some words of Miss Heck:

As you enter your second century, women of North Carolina, make sure the Union is in the Master's hand and not yours. That is the only place it is safe. And if you do, when we come to the end of our time we'll be able to say to Him, 'O, King and Master, it was not for the Union's sake we served but it was for Your sake that we placed the Union in your hands and we were willing to make whatever change necessary, whatever sacrifice...to be berated, persecuted, relegated as second class citizens in the Kingdom of God...whatever it takes to enable every person in the world to know that You love them and You are not dead.'

"Rise up, O women of God, have done with lesser things, with heart and mind and soul and voice, serve the King of Kings and lead us out. . . " O'Brien challenged as the final session drew to a close and applause reverberated from the audience of more than 3,000 people (Minutes from annual meeting 1986).

Dot Allred commented that the celebration was such an awesome

experience that no one could have entered fully into those days and ever be the same again. Using terminology of the electronic/information age, she said, "We were fast forwarded into the next one hundred years."

The responsibilities of the presidency were well known to the new president. She had watched other presidents since 1953 when, just back from Carver School of Missions and Social Work and Southern Seminary with her pastor husband, she attended her first annual WMU meeting, in Asheville.

Dot Allred already realized North Carolina had long been the envy of some other states because of its full, uniquely gifted staff with their willingness to live out their commitment to missions through Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina. It had always seemed clear that no staff member served without the unmistakable awareness she was exactly where God wanted her to be, with the sense of a divine call. Dot said, "I felt that together we could be a strong, fast-forwarding team, with each participant bringing her own ideas and spiritual gifts to the table for consideration, and with all of us realizing our dependence on the strong, continual leading of the Holy Spirit as an absolute essential."

It came as something of a surprise to each president when she was newly elected to realize how highly respected she and her staff were, and how they were sought for consultation and encouragement by leadership from other states and national WMU. North Carolina women had continued to be out front in giving leadership in many areas of the work, first meeting their own needs as they understood them, then realizing it was a need others also had. They continued to freely give and share ideas, plans, and time to strengthen the work and assist beyond their own geographical boundaries.

At the 1986 annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention, North Carolina was presented a plaque for the most growth in the number of organizations, a distinct honor. It reflected the emphasis and efforts toward growth by women throughout the state. The total membership, according to 1985 statistics, was 141,545, and 10,568 organizations.

For the most part, North Carolina followed the themes and emphases developed by state elected officers and staff and the national officers and staff. SBC plans were adopted at the Executive Board meeting in Birmingham each January. With their own ideas and sugges-

tions already a part of formulating anything that was being promoted, state staffs returned to their states to implement plans in keeping with their own needs and, often, resources. It was an almost unbelievable, workable, process, with such spiritual power moving it along that Dot Allred coined the phrase, "Only God."

1988 WMU SBC Centennial

With the year 1988 marking the 100th anniversary of WMU, SBC, North Carolina women were involved in the early planning stages, along with leadership from all of the other states, for the celebration of this historic milestone. The meeting would be held in Richmond, Virginia, May 13-14, 1988. North Carolina's Bea McRae had been elected to chair the Centennial Committee.

The theme for the 1988 year was "A Century to Celebrate—A Future to Fulfill." The Second Century Fund, established on May 14 at the meeting, was an endowment fund. The earnings were to help foster WMU leadership development in the United States and abroad, including assistance to WMU-type organizations on mission fields and WMU emphasis at Southern Baptist seminaries. Dot Allred from North Carolina was named to chair the Second Century Fund Committee. National goals for the celebration meshed well with those already a part of North Carolina's 1986 centennial commitments.

In 1987 Bea McRae visited Panama and spoke at the Panama WMU annual meeting and in some churches. In 1988 Bea served as Bible teacher at the Panama WMU Baptist Women Seminar. During these sessions with the Panamanian women she challenged them to save their money and join other Baptist Women in the United States celebrating the WMU Centennial in Richmond, VA, in May 1988.

Betty Jo (Mrs. Bob) Hensley, a North Carolina missionary, and other missionaries, picked up the challenge and encouraged the women to attend the celebration.

1988 brought political unrest in Panama. In early spring President, Manuel Noriega, closed the banks and the women could not get to their savings for the trip. North Carolina Baptist Women began praying for the situation. By the grace of God, sixty women, including some missionaries, were able to borrow money from family and friends for their airline tickets. Women in churches in Richmond opened their hearts and homes to these ladies. NC WMU gave each lady a bag containing food and other needed items.

The Panamanian ladies added much to the celebration. Their colorful dresses and just their presence reminded us of God's goodness and the fact that with God all things are possible. Letters were received after they returned home telling of the life changing experiences for many who had attended the historic celebration. God again had enabled women to do what He wanted them to do and we celebrated His goodness. We trust the impact of this Centennial Celebration will be passed on to the next generation.

Leadership Training

In North Carolina "Only God" could do what was happening when state leadership went to the leadership conferences held for associational leadership teams in the late summer each year. Between 500 and 600 associational leaders came for training. Locations varied from year to year, but usually the locations were either Fruitland Bible Institute in Hendersonville, Caraway Conference Center at Asheboro, or North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Caswell. Those attending returned to their respective associations and duplicated, sometimes expanding with their own ideas, the training they had received. This provided training for the leadership teams in the local churches.

Over a ten year period this translated into about 5,500 trained associational leaders. This number was further multiplied as the associational leaders trained leaders for the churches. Both experienced and new leaders attended. Everyone received current information, new ideas, and methods for involving more women, children, families and churches in the total mission effort.

Meeting of North American Baptist Women

In 1987 a bus was chartered for North Carolina women to attend the North American Baptist Women's Meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada. Tour hostesses were Bernice Cross, Suthell Walker and Dot Allred. Meeting within sight and sound of the mighty Niagara Falls, the meeting itself was overwhelming. Baptist women were there from throughout the hemisphere speaking many different languages. Hearing about their interest in studying missions, their sacrifices to give to missions and to be involved in missions with other women, made the North Carolina women search their own hearts for the quality of their commitments.

Mission Study

In North Carolina there was a continuing effort to prepare teachers for teaching mission study books in the local churches. There was encouragement to make the studies church-wide for men and women, with age-level studies provided for all the age-levels, including Mission Friends. Sometimes separate Mission Study Institutes were held in one or more locations in the state to train teachers. Sometimes the teaching helps and promotion were given as a part of the annual training of associational leadership. Some churches invited other churches to join them for a study. If more classes were provided in more churches, more people attended. It appears more teachers were equipped to teach in the years when the Mission Study Institutes were held.

Some churches resisted giving prime time for church-wide mission study and other mission events. Other churches joined in wholeheartedly with total church support. Many pastors volunteered to teach a mission study, when invited. In addition, a number of laymen in the state have been involved for many years in teaching missions, sometimes teaching the same book more than 20 times in different churches. One successful approach for presenting mission information from a book has been to use several people, instead of just one teacher, in the presentation, and to use drama and role playing. Sometimes many people have been involved in providing a setting for the particular area of the world to be studied. For instance:, a large tent erected for a study of the beginning of mission work among early Americans; the erection of the nose of an airplane, with those attending showing passports as they “boarded” the plane for their trip to a mission field. Such extra effort enabled more people to learn what God was and is doing through Southern Baptists.

In almost every association there are willing, outstanding women who have felt teaching is their area of giftedness and their special missions ministry. With good, prepared teachers, some churches have continued church-wide studies for more than 35 years. No better method has been devised to keep people informed about what God is doing in the world.

Spiritual Life Development

A focus on spiritual development continued during these years with the issuance of a revised edition of *Spiritual Live Development*, a book by Mildred McMurray. Women knew they could not go beyond their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ in ministering to others.

Emphasis was placed on Bible Study, personal devotional time, prayer and worship. Teaching this book, and prayer retreats, helped women deepen and strengthen their relationship with the Lord.

Efforts were made to identify spiritual gifts and help women find God's will for their lives as they lived out their faith. *Yours for the Giving*, a book by Barbara Joiner, challenged and enabled women to recognize the spiritual gifts God had given them individually, and how these were a part of the whole of God's purposes for the world. Women learned the difference between talents and gifts and that no one was without at least one spiritual gift, something eye-opening and exciting.

The theme for the WMU year was "Empowered." Esther Burroughs wrote *Empowered—Reclaiming the Meaning of Missions Through the Power of the Holy Spirit*, a book which was studied in Baptist Women's group meetings, in prayer retreats and individually.

Partnership Missions

North Carolina WMU continued to cooperate with all the efforts of the Baptist State Convention in partnership missions, many times alongside Baptist Men. In every setting women have been a part of the teams: in Togo, West Africa, in Europe, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in South Africa, in the Ukraine, in New York, in Ohio, in West Virginia, in Pennsylvania. New partnerships were being formed every year.

In the partnership efforts North Carolina WMU would send two or more women to the country ahead of time, meet with missionaries on the field and with Baptist leadership among the women. It was an effort to determine the best way for North Carolina to help the women of that country to do what they felt God wanted them to do. NC WMU leadership has always believed that just moving in with an American idea that met needs in North Carolina would not be the best use of resources. Such efforts probably would not be effective, nor appreciated. The help given has taken many forms:

- How to enlist other women for missions
- How to start Bible classes for women
- How to plan and conduct a day camp for children
- Teaching skills that could provide a cottage-type source of income
- How to tell someone else about Jesus

Each year and each new partnership brings new challenges.

Representing North Carolina WMU, Dot Allred went to Sao Paulo, Brazil for the annual meeting of the state executive board of the Woman's Missionary Society and a meeting of the Ministers' Wives from the state of Sao Paulo. She visited numerous Baptist churches in Campinas and visited and spoke at a hilltop mission where missionaries Paul and Peggy Stouffer attended. Twelve GA girls met before the night service. It was a treasured experience.

Although Dot had participated in another overseas partnership earlier, the work in Brazil was very different. She learned so much from the missionaries by observing them at work, being in their homes, and talking with them. She also learned from being in the homes of some American lay people who work with corporations in that country but also actively align themselves with what Baptists are doing. Also attending the Sao Paulo state meetings, and representing the North Carolina partnership, were Dr. Roy Smith, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, and O. D. Martin, North Carolina's coordinator for the Brazilian partnership, along with Barbara, his wife and Priscila, their daughter. The Martins had served as missionaries to Sao Paulo before returning to work in North Carolina.

Another one of Dot's "Only God" experiences occurred as she traveled from Miami to Rio. Traveling alone, she had already questioned her sanity when she could not understand what was being said in the airport in Miami. What would she do in Rio and Sao Paulo? Not to worry. God was already there. Seated on the plane for the night long flight she learned the fine looking young man sitting beside her was an exchange student from Sao Paulo, returning home after a year in Canada. He could speak fluent English, Portuguese and French. The tall, athletic young man took Dot by the arm and guided her through all the lines in Rio, supported her with his presence during a six-hour delay, and through all the backed-up lines in Sao Paulo. "Only God."

The interest in far away partnership missions continued but did not detract from the importance of every individual being on mission wherever God placed him or her. An increased emphasis was given to Family Missions, with efforts to involve whole family units in one or more mission efforts. This took on new meaning in church communities as families prayed for their own mission opportunity and responded as God led through the years. Many women were making personal commitments to a missions lifestyle. Chapter 15 has stories, which are examples of

what God has done and is doing beyond anything that could have been imagined or dreamed.

There was a continuing challenge to total stewardship of life. It continued to manifest itself in the lives of singles, couples, families, and retirees, with the goal that every Christian, at home, in the market place and wherever their daily walks led them, would be sharing Christ by the way they lived as well as by their conversation.

Expanding Ministries

North Carolina Baptist women continued to give encouragement, insight and foresight to expanding ministries. They began to see more opportunities for missions near home. Rest homes, being built in every community, became not just places to deliver a fruit basket, but an opportunity to make life more meaningful and to share the importance of Jesus in a life, no matter the age. It was recognized many people in nursing homes and retirement centers were not Christians. Through WMU conferences, and other ways, North Carolina women began to help Christians living in senior adult settings to carry on ministries they had not had time to do earlier in life. God still had purpose and meaning for their lives.

Ethnic groups were settling in almost every area of the state, but more heavily in and near the larger cities. Former foreign mission groups had become neighbors. This was a challenge for concerned Christians. To reach these new neighbors called for a fresh commitment to missions since providing funds for someone far away was sometimes easier than ministering and witnessing close at hand. But God just touched a mission group here, another one there and Bible studies began, mothers were helped with the language and new church groups were started.

The women of North Carolina have never lost sight of the responsibility to care for children. A statewide project was planned in 1991 for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. WMU's concern for this ministry dates back to 1887. A shower of needed items for the different campuses was planned, with the contributions to be brought to Ridgecrest at the Missions Extravaganza (annual session) that year. The response was overwhelming. Trucks had to be sent to pick up the shower gifts. An abundance of school and other supplies was sent to the Homes as an expression of love and concern of the women of North Carolina. The shower was repeated a second year, with different items

requested. Once again the women gave in abundance. The Homes asked that it not be repeated the next year—they were out of storage space for supplies, even after sharing with other agencies and institutions.

In reflecting on her years with North Carolina WMU, Dot Allred said, “To me, the genius of Woman’s Missionary Union is that it is made up of, and is representative of, the grassroots women in North Carolina. Women in rural North Carolina as well as women in every community, town and hamlet, and women from the largest churches in our cities, are an integral part of all we are. Through the years they have followed good, strong, focused-on-missions leadership in the state. They take the good ideas and put arms and feet to them in missions education and involvement. Everybody is somebody! That ownership is taken seriously...There really is no limit to what God can do through the women who are Woman’s Missionary Union in North Carolina...and He does so much more than they can even dream or imagine.”

CHAPTER EIGHT

Women, Learning to Lean on Jesus and Each Other

Nancy Curtis, perhaps more than any other one person, saw the potential for strengthening missions through the many Baptist women who were living out their faith as teachers, college professors, school administrators, lawyers, doctors, nurses, government officials, corporate leaders, ministers' wives, and the like. Women from all walks of life were attending the many retreats, spiritual growth conferences, BYW conventions, Baptist Women's events and age-level leadership conferences being held to meet the identified needs of women in today's world. Through the years the organization had maintained an executive board of some of the finest, most committed, Christian women to be found anywhere. With unwavering commitments to homes and families, the women were aware God continued to open doors in their lives. Coming from their myriad walks of daily life, the board represented almost every field of endeavor. They came to the board after first serving effectively in the local church and often, in the association.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Nurses made up one of the professional groups. With the encouragement and support of NC WMU, and with the enthusiastic, persistent efforts of Dr. Ellen Tabor, a former foreign missionary to Korea, the North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship was organized February 12, 1983 as interested nurses met at Caraway Conference Center. Inez Arant, Charlotte, was elected the first president. Suedel Bedsaul succeeded her. Nancy Curtis served as executive director.



Nancy Curtis, Ellen Tabor (Mrs. Charles), June Whitlow, NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Later that year, November 3-5, 1983, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship was organized with North Carolinian Dr. Ellen Tabor serving as founding president. Later, June Whitlow, from the national WMU staff, was named the BNF executive director for the national organization.

The BNF published *The Lamplighter* a national publication. In North Carolina the state publication to keep nurses informed was named *The Pulse*.

Objectives and Purposes of the organization are;

- To provide opportunities for sharing, worshipping, ministering and witnessing through Christian professional fellowship.
- To provide opportunities for learning and educational experiences through Bible study, ethical study, and evaluation of denominational work and professional education.
- To provide opportunities for expanded Christian service and witness through mission support with local, state, home and foreign ministries, disaster relief, and personal involvement in mission service individually or collectively, as led by the Holy Spirit.

Since its early beginnings in North Carolina, and nationally, the BNF has enthusiastically responded to training opportunities. Some 11.5 hours of accreditation training was given at Ridgecrest Conference Center one year. There have been countless other training opportunities. Membership has continued to grow even though the number of people entering the nursing field declines each year.

The ministry of Parish Nursing has been encouraged and advanced through the organization. The concept of Parish Nursing was pioneered by Hospital Chaplain/Professor Granger Westburg. It is generally felt a nurse is the best suited health professional to serve as a ministry team member in the church. Some churches have been working with this program for several years, others are inquiring about it. BNF is there to help.

North Carolina BNF volunteers have responded to mission needs in numerous settings, including South Africa, Togo, Ukraine, New York, and Bosnia. The first medical/dental team went to Bosnia in 1990 and went again in March 2000. Nurses have been provided for the hundreds of girls who attend Camp Mundo Vista each summer. In cooperation with North Carolina Baptist Men, nurses have responded to disaster calls in almost every area of our country where tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters, have struck. They've also provided medical assistance with the medical/dental van as it has traveled to many church sites and communities in North Carolina. It is impossible to count the number of those who have participated as they have focused on ministry, not on taking credit for what is being done. There are between 20 to 25 local BNF organizations in the state with approximately 250 members enrolled.

BNF members have experienced the reality of God's promise that He will do abundantly more than we can even dream or imagine. One example, is what nurses in the Stoneville area, under the sponsorship of First Baptist Church of Eden, are doing in providing an ongoing ministry to a community known as "Little Mexico." They immediately responded to help when a devastating tornado struck the area. The initial assistance was followed with ongoing efforts to meet the needs of this community. Medical/health needs are being met through a health fair and health and nutrition classes.

BNF leaders have joined other Christian nursing organizations to promote observance of "Nurse Appreciation Week" in May each year. They encourage churches to honor nurses in their congregations, to

give ongoing prayer support for their ministry wherever their work takes them, and to pray for more young people to consider the field of nursing as a mission assignment—whether at home or abroad.

Women in Ministry

In 1978 WMU and ten SBC agencies co-sponsored a Consultation on Women in Church-Related Vocations. This grew out of a concern for the slowdown of the number of women going into missions. The result was a plan of action by WMU to encourage women in church-related vocations. Increased attention was given through articles in publications. Dinners for women in church-related vocations were held in connection with annual meetings in 1979, 1982 and 1986 (*History of Woman's Missionary Union, A Century to Celebrate*, by Catherine B. Allen, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL).

After the 1986 meeting some of the participants laid plans to form a permanent Women in Ministry organization. WMU assisted this group each year by arranging a meeting place prior to the WMU, SBC annual meeting, and with clerical work.

The WMU SBC received several letters of criticism for their support of the new Women in Ministry group. In 1985 the Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution encouraging support of women in all aspects of Christian work “other than pastoral functions involving ordination” (*1985 Southern Baptist Convention Annual*).

Carolyn Weatherford, then executive director for WMU SBC, said, “The word *minister* doesn't mean ordination. Each church decides whether to ordain its staff members....One of WMU's important jobs is ‘to create an environment through which persons can hear and respond to God's call to missions.’ If WMU is to be honest with girls about listening to God's call, we must be informed and concerned about the problems they encounter” (*A Century to Celebrate*, by Allen, 342-43).

In North Carolina there had been growing concern about the slowing response by women to God's call to career missions, at home and abroad. Through camps, age-level meetings, and the regular meetings for children and youth in the churches, an environment was created in which participants could recognize how God had gifted them and had purpose for each of their lives. No life was unimportant to God and His purposes for the world.

It became clear God was calling out some of the finest young women

in North Carolina for ministry and witness. They were being encouraged and educated, with the help of parents and churches, to be all God wanted them to be.

WMU stood alongside young women in college and seminary as they yielded themselves to the leading of God's Holy Spirit. Strong YWA and/or BYW organizations on some college campuses provided additional support and an entree for state WMU personnel and furloughing missionaries to get to know these young women, and for some, to develop a mentor relationship.

When Women in Ministry organized in North Carolina, WMU gave encouragement and support to individuals and to the group, participating on programs, helping with publicity and promotion. Young women in the churches, colleges and seminaries turned to WMU leadership for encouragement, prayer support, and help as they pursued the area of service to which God was calling them, especially if they were being called into non-traditional roles of ministry. The motto adopted by NCWMU shortly after its organization often came to mind: "For Ye Serve the Lord Christ....Colossians 3:14."

Some of the finest young women who have come from North Carolina Baptist homes and churches, disciplined and nurtured in the church and missions organizations, and educated in Baptist schools and seminaries, now serve effectively and successfully as pastors in Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and other evangelical churches. A few serve Southern Baptist churches.

Ministers' Wives

WMU leadership in North Carolina has always considered the role of the wife of a minister (pastor, education, music...) to be a very challenging one, and have made efforts to stand alongside her in whatever ways they could. Although the pastor's wife was the primary leader in organizing, encouraging, and otherwise giving leadership to WMU organizations in some churches (as evidenced earlier in this history), it was never the intent of the state WMU leadership to assume that was the only calling for the wife of a church staff member. However, some churches, because of their specific needs, have assumed a particular role belonged to the minister's wife, perhaps serving in Sunday School, music, youth, or missions organizations.

WMU in North Carolina has made concerted efforts to affirm women in whatever way they felt God had gifted them to live out their faith.

Conferences and retreats have been held to include professional women, women who had never assumed any responsibility outside the home, the young, the middle-aged, the upper-aged, women from the cities and women from the farms.

In the early 1960's a group of ministers' wives from the Edenton area of the state realized they, along with other ministers' wives, needed each other. They recognized some young ministers' wives were struggling with pressures, responsibilities, families, husbands, and feeling they had nowhere to turn for help. The Edenton group contacted Dr. Olin Binkley, then at Southern Seminary in Louisville, for assistance. The consultations and planning resulted in the first Retreat for Ministers' Wives. It was held on the campus of Southeastern Seminary.

WMU provided some of the conference leaders at the first retreat and have done it many more times during the years. This is not a WMU organization. The very able officers and program people for the Ministers' Wives organization have consistently encouraged and provided support and fellowship opportunities to meet the identified needs of this extremely important group of uniquely gifted women.

The annual summer retreat for Ministers' Wives is now held at Caraway Conference Center. Churches are encouraged to send their minister's wife, providing the cost of the three-day retreat. WMU feels its role for these women is to be their "cheerleader," always affirming and assisting them when they have opportunity to do so. A meeting of ministers' wives is also held each year preceding the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention.

In 1997 Betsy McSwain, a pastor's wife, was contracted by WMU as a staff assistant, leading out in the ministries for ministers' spouses.

CHAPTER NINE

Camp Mundo Vista

By Pat Ritchie Liles/Dot Allred

During the 1960's, interest in summer camps continued to grow and the need for camp facilities became apparent. In a WMU executive board meeting in January 1967 Emma Benfield, president, appointed a camp committee and named Sara (Mrs. A. Leroy) Parker, immediate past president, as chairperson. Their assignment was to bring recommendations regarding camps to the board.

The camp committee visited facilities at Fruitland Bible Institute and Camp, located near Hendersonville, and Camp Caraway near Asheboro. After much prayer, many long meetings, and hikes up and down undeveloped terrains, the committee concluded the land adjoining Camp Caraway was best suited to WMU's needs. In accordance with earlier action, a communication was sent to the executive committee of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention requesting permission to build a state WMU Camp on 130 acres of land in the southwest portion of the area owned by the Baptist State Convention, across the road from Camp Caraway. Ed Bullock, Brotherhood director, was in agreement with the request.

As chairperson of the camp committee, Mrs. Parker made the following recommendation for presentation to the General Board on July 10, 1967:

"(1) that the North Carolina Baptist Convention be requested to purchase one acre of land adjoining the southwest corner of the previously requested 130 acres in order to provide a safer and more convenient access to the proposed camp site, and

"(2) that Woman's Missionary Union be given permission to borrow \$250,000 to build on the proposed property."

At the January 5, 1968 executive board meeting consideration was given to a name for the proposed camp near Asheboro. After several castings of ballots, the name "Mundo Vista" was chosen. The Rev. Hoyle Allred had suggested the name after talking with Iris (Gigi) Garcia

Gonzolas, a Cuban student. It is a loose Spanish translation for "World View."

In January 1969, Sara Ann Hobbs, executive director, and the finance committee recommended a plan for paying off the indebtedness on Camp Mundo Vista in two years. Each church was asked to set a goal of \$1.00 per member for the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering for WMU promotion for two consecutive years.

On a very hot June 26, 1969 Camp Mundo Vista was dedicated. The dream, acquisition and development of the facility provide a rich history of how the women, husbands, and families became involved in making it happen.

Janet Wilson, former Young People's Secretary for North Carolina, composed the official song for Mundo Vista.

When His hunger haunts our hearts
It is time for us to start for Mundo Vista.
Templed woods, God set apart
As altars for our questing hearts to share.
High in the hills of Carolina
Like warm sun shining
He sends his glorious presence.

Heaven speaks through nature's sounds,
And sparkling laughter's found at Mundo Vista.
Cherished days are clearly crowned
With visions high to send us on our way.

We cannot stay at Mundo Vista.
A hungry world is waiting to be shown
How much our Saviour cares.

Sara Ann Hobbs, in her message at the dedication, said: "It is not surprising to us that the majority of women appointed as missionaries came to this decision while at a camp such as this. We do not aim to call all girls to mission fields, but we do aim to develop that heart sensitivity to the voice of God that makes it easy for Him to be heard and makes it imperative that He be followed."

A decoupage plaque of the litany of dedication, written by Emma Benfield and used at the dedication of the camp, hangs in the lobby of

the activity building at Mundo Vista. Sybil Warren (Mrs. C. C.) made and presented it to Mundo Vista at the executive board meeting held at the camp on May 12, 1971.

Camp Mundo Vista opened for its first summer season in 1969. It was directed by Jolene Ivey, the North Carolina state Acteens director. Staffers were a contingent of carefully chosen young women, college students or college graduates, who would work directly with the campers in this new setting. The dogwoods, oaks, maples, poplars, and other native trees, were pushed back on the hilltop to make room for the cabins and unit lodges. The camp design made the most of the natural setting, creating a place where it would be easy to focus on the world God had created, an environment where campers see themselves in God's great plan for all of His creation. It was easy to hear His voice in quiet times, in small groups, and in vespers, away from the daily distractions of the busy, industrialized towns and cities and the busy farms of the state where they lived.

A camp committee was named by the executive board to give attention to needs of the camp facility and its overall use. It became a working committee as the members began to see ways they could help. They were really laborers together with God and with each other. They made reports and recommendations to the executive board. Years later the chairman of the camp committee was made a member of the executive board. The camp committee did not provide programming. Program planning was done by the appropriate staff member/s or group scheduled to use the camp facilities.

It was obvious that keeping Mundo Vista clean, available and scheduled for use during the "off season," when there were no GA camps, would require fulltime attention. The camp committee, in 1971, recommended the employment of Rev. Jason Lee as the first fulltime maintenance superintendent. Rev. Lee and his wife, Margie, worked at Mundo Vista until 1976. They lived in an apartment in the basement of the dining hall.

Prayer Retreats of the 1970's, planned by Kathryn Bullard and led by Martha Franks, along with many home and foreign missionaries, gave adult women the opportunity to spend time in the "templed" woods known as Mundo Vista. These special weekends were followed in later years by Baptist Young Women's Retreats, Mother/Daughter Camps, as well as retreats and training weekends for leaders of WMU age-level organizations. Mundo Vista was no longer just the GA Camp,



Martha Franks, retired missionary to China at Mundo Vista

it was the North Carolina WMU Camp.

In 1973 the outdoor chapel was landscaped and remodeled as a memorial to Fran Gilreath, Camp Mundo Vista's first camp nurse. Deep sadness had fallen on the WMU family with news of the tragic early morning death of Fran Gilreath, killed April 6, 1973, when the driver of another car was blinded by the early morning sun. The daughter of Betty (WMU vice president) and Frank Gilreath, Fran was a nurse at Duke Hospital who the preceding summer had served as camp nurse at Camp Mundo Vista. Earlier she had specialized in nursing care for termi-

nally ill children at Emory University Medical Center. Her memorial service reflected the influence on her life of her years in GAs and other mission organizations in Saint John's Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Jolene Ivey served as camp director until 1975, followed by Pat Ritchie 1976 and 1978. In 1978 Tommy Bridges was employed as the first resident manager for Camp Mundo Vista. The apartment under the dining hall proved to be inadequate for the couple who had two daughters, Missy and Andrea. The Camp Committee made building a home for the resident manager the number one building priority.

That bicentennial year was the beginning of several years of the CYO (Committed Youthful Offenders) Retreats. These retreats, staffed by the Mundo Vista summer camp staffs, were held for a small group of youthful offenders from Cameron Morrison Youth Center.

In the fall of 1976 Carolyn Hopkins was employed as Acteens Director for NC WMU. As such she became the director of Camp Mundo Vista for 1977. Caroline McManus was the Mundo Vista Camp director in 1979.

In the summer of 1978 North Carolina WMU began providing a limited number of scholarships for girls recommended by the county departments of social services. These scholarships allowed girls, who otherwise would never have been able to attend a camp, to have their



Beth McDonald, Camp Committee Chairman and Nancy Curtis, WMU Executive Director, with Pat and Leland Bingham

first opportunity to learn about the love of Jesus Christ and accept Him as their personal Saviour.

Mundo Vista also became a place to minister to prisoners. Because of WMU's good relationship with the staff of the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women, and the existence of the tall fence surrounding the camp, North Carolina WMU was granted the privilege of hosting a weekend camp retreat at Mundo Vista for fifteen to eighteen long term inmates (15-18) and staff members from NCCCW. These special retreats were, and are, staffed by members of the NC WMU staff, the executive board, and other volunteers.

Tommy Bridges accomplished much during his years at Mundo Vista, including painting all the main buildings, lodges and cabins. He also developed a painting schedule for all of the camp buildings. WMU was saddened in 1978 by the resignation of Tommy and Peggy Bridges.

In 1979 Leland Bingham was employed to be the Mundo Vista resident manager. That year Leland and Pat Bingham moved into the new resident manager's home with their daughter Heather.

After the 1979 summer camps, the camp committee decided to employ a young woman each year to direct the camps at Mundo Vista. This decision came in part because of WMU's decision to begin using various camps around the state to hold GA and Acteens Camps, giving more girls the opportunity to attend a camp. WMU also held the

Associational Leadership Team Workshops during the summer months. This meant age-level directors could not lead workshops in the east and in the west during the summer camp season at Mundo. The age-level workshops were essential to the training and promotion of what each organization would be doing during the coming year. So a separate camp director was needed, one who was not also serving as an age-level director.

In addition to the weeks of camps at Mundo Vista, traveling camp teams were formed and led by Pat Ritchie and Carolyn Hopkins. The teams took the program staff, missionaries and program materials needed for a full camp experience to several locations, using whatever facility the associations could provide. Local leaders assisted. It was a long, hot, summer but the camps proved effective and well worth the effort.

In 1981 Debra McGuire was employed as the first Mundo Vista Camp Director and remained in that position through 1984. Others were: Tammy Herring, 1985-87; Linda Todd, 1988-1991; Paula O'Briant, 1992 and 1993; 1994 was shared by Paula O'Briant and Jennifer Long. Camilla Hatch directed the 1995 camp season; Teresa Russell 1996; Tammy Tate 1997 and 1998, and Laura Pendleton 1999 and 2000.

From 1979 through 1989 many improvements were made at Mundo Vista. Ceiling fans were installed in the guest lodge; the dining hall began using a food service; Bill Jackson rebuilt the platform at the Outdoor Chapel and repaired many of the chapel benches. Many camp paths were repaired, including the terracing of the Outdoor Chapel path. Several camp buildings were re-roofed and painted.

The Centennial Building was built in 1985, with substantial funds being provided by Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, Greensboro, to honor Sara Kanoy Parker, former president.

Following the retirement of Leland Bingham in 1992, Bob Navey was employed as the Mundo Vista resident manager. Working alongside him has been his wife, Julie, and their four daughters who have grown up there.

After study the executive committee decided to renovate Mundo Vista. Earlier a dream team studying renovations for Camp Mundo Vista had worked and planned long and diligently, spending time at the camp and developing promotional materials. However, with the resignation of the campaign chairman, Nancy Hunter, the campaign did not move as hoped. The women finally admitted they could encourage themselves

and others to give to state, home and foreign missions, but they were not good at raising money for what was considered very much a WMU missions effort.

Woman's Missionary Union signed a forty-nine year lease with the Baptist State Convention for Camp Mundo Vista which includes an option to renew for another forty-nine years. New plans were being considered to fund the extensive work needed to update these special facilities where so many young people had heard and responded to God's call to missions around the world. Bea and Horace McRae, because of their long time commitment to Mundo Vista, agreed to lead the effort.

With the help of consultant Herb Kennedy, a Master Plan for Camp Mundo Vista was adopted in 1992. With this new Master Plan came more dreams of what Mundo Vista could be. A dream team was appointed and Kathryn Bullard, retired WMU executive director from Virginia, graciously responded to the invitation to share her expertise in planning and successfully providing funds for the recently completed WMU camp in Virginia.

WMU President Ann Smith, the McRaes, and others worked diligently to raise money that would be needed. As stated earlier, many people have given much time and hard work toward securing the needed funds. It is an ongoing effort. To help the money secured go further it was decided to use volunteers to do much of the work under the supervision of a project coordinator.

Sanford (Sandy) Smith, retired director of administrative services for the City of Greensboro, and husband of WMU President Ann Smith, was knowledgeable and loved Mundo Vista. He was asked to be the first project coordinator for Mundo Vista Renovations. Hundreds of men and women worked thousands of hours cleaning, repairing and building to help move toward the dreams of the Master Plan.

Sandy had for many years been closely involved with the volunteer programs of Baptist Men, so when North Carolina Baptists agreed to help relocate the European Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland to Prague, Czech Republic, he wanted to be involved. Sandy suggested to the WMU executive board that one of his faithful volunteers, Bob Wainwright, a retired director of missions, be asked to replace him as project manager.

Anniversary Celebrated

On May 21, 1994, the Camp Mundo Vista 25th Anniversary Celebration was held at Mundo Vista. Participants heard Bernice Cross and Sarah Parker, members of the original camp committee, share their first experiences at Mundo Vista. Speakers included former executive directors Sara Ann Hobbs and Nancy Curtis, along with Diane Daniels, Becki Kellam, Paula O'Briant, Jan High, and Beth McDonald.

In connection with the anniversary celebration, Theresa and David Thomas, staff musicians at First Baptist Church, wrote two songs, the "Mundo Vista Hymn" and the "Mundo Vista Camp Song."

Mundo Vista Hymn

Words: Theresa Thomas

Tune: Austrian Hymn

Quiet mornings in God's presence
Underneath these lofty trees;
Wonderment at His creation,
God speaks to me on the breeze.
He has called me. He has changed me.
I must hasten and arise!
Mundo Vista you have shown me:
To view the world through God's own eyes.

Sunset glows in mountain splendor,
Worship comes with hallowed ease.
Eager minds and hearts responding
For our lands and 'cross the seas.
Glad contentment bids me stay here,
Yet, I hasten and arise!
Mundo Vista you have shown me:
To view the world through God's own eyes.

MUNDO VISTA

Words and Music: Theresa Thomas

Arranged by David Thomas

I remember the rock,
I remember the tree,
Where God spoke to me.

I remember with ease
The breeze in the leaves
Where God spoke to me.

When I experienced His Word,
His voice clearly heard,
Calling oh so tenderly.

I remember the place,
Where I glimpsed to see
God's plan for eternity.

Mundo Vista! "Continuing a legacy
Thru changed lives."
Mundo Vista! View of the world
Thru God's eyes.

I remember the rills,
The sun dappled hills,
Where God spoke to me.

Where I answered His call
Gave Him my all,
Said I'll follow willingly.

I remember the place,
Where I began to see
"Go Ye!" included me.
Mundo Vista, "Continuing a legacy
Thru changed lives,"
Mundo Vista! View of the world
Thru God's eyes.*

*music is the property of WMU NC, to be used only with the words of the Camp Mundo Vista camp song as here given. © 1994.

Inspiration for the camp song came from Dianne Keck Daniels, former missionary to Colombia, who spoke of remembering the rock at Mundo Vista where God spoke to her about a commitment to missions.

Dreaming and Working Toward Goals

Since 1995 Bob Wainwright has followed the lead of Sandy Smith and has used volunteer laborers on most of the projects to improve Camp Mundo Vista. He has worked with his own hands as well as supervising the volunteers who come in, day after day and week after week. Over the years, more than 1,500 volunteers have helped to make the Mundo Vista renovation dreams become realities.

In 1998 the ongoing need for funds for the renovations, and other efforts of WMU, led to the addition of Edna Walters as the first Development Director for NC WMU. She focused on securing extra funds to continue to upgrade the cabins and lodges, including installation of bathroom facilities in each cabin. The original rustic facilities began to be modernized. The unit bath houses were replaced with in-cabin baths.

The development director initiated several pilot projects for securing additional funds. She challenged the associational WMU leadership to enlist all of the women in their association with the goal of securing enough money to pay for the total renovation of one cabin. At least thirteen associations were enlisted to be pilot projects.

When North Roanoke Association was asked to be one of the associations to raise \$35 per WMU member, including all age-level members, their immediate reaction was, "No way!" However, they voted to accept the challenge at their annual WMU meeting in April, 1998. The women and girls, and even whole families, began to work. They made and sold cookbooks, made and sold personalized note cards; suggested the churches honor a "Woman of the Century" from their membership by making a gift in her name to the effort. The women did not have the money. They had to generate new money. The goal was \$105,245.

Ruby and Wilbur Batchelor were co-chairs of the effort. This dedicated team led the people of North Roanoke Association to work hard, and work hard they did. Their creativity took many forms: yard sales, spaghetti suppers, family night dinners, fish fries, pancake suppers, and watermelon sales. At their annual meeting in April, 2000, they celebrated exceeding the "impossible goal." \$106,000 had been given! As a result, two cabins could be completely renovated and winterized, with indoor baths added.

One cabin would be identified as "Ruby and Wilbur Batchelor and WMU members of North Roanoke Association Cabin," and the other would be the "Donice and J. D. Harrod Cabin." Donice was serving as state WMU president when the effort was begun and J. D. was actively involved as the director of missions who went beyond the call of duty

by designing such things as note cards for resale, and supporting the project through articles, the spoken word, and at associational meetings. He made a photograph of each of the 62 churches in the association and designed note cards for each church to sell. He also supported the project of a special Mundo Vista Cookbook. The effort was a unifying experience and gave the association a sense of joy and satisfaction.

In the Raleigh Association, Director Hannah Hills asked the WMU to accept the challenge of raising \$25,000 to renovate a cabin over a three-year period. Hannah and Nancy McLean, treasurer, used the associational WMU newsletter to promote the need for a cabin renovation and the women in the churches responded. Members of the leadership team also collected offerings at their events that went to the cabin fund. In less than three years the goal was reached. A cabin would be renovated in honor of the "WMU of the Raleigh Association."

Having completed the fund raising efforts for one cabin, the leadership team knew there were still other cabins not yet adopted for renovation. Under the leadership of new WMU director, Kay Bisette, and Nancy McLean, treasurer, the team voted to adopt another cabin. They agreed to raise the funds in honor of Eunice Bland, former WMU director in the association and missionary to Nigeria. Again, the team members used offerings and promotions in the newsletter to promote the fund. Donna Pernell, secretary, made replicas of the cabin to use as table decorations and offering collection boxes at meetings. Letters were written to Eunice's friends giving them an opportunity to participate in this event. Again, in less time than expected, the money was given. Hannah Hills and Eunice Bland were honored to cut the ribbons on the newly renovated cabins during the dedication service at Mundo Vista.

In 1998-99 Sandy Smith returned as project coordinator to lead volunteers in building another beautiful and useful building. This building, to be used as a unit lodge and multi-purpose building, would be named The Bill and Ruth Jackson Building.

Bill and Ruth Jackson had long been associated with North Carolina WMU. Bill was elected secretary of Royal Ambassadors in 1946 when RAs were under the supervision of WMU. One of Bill Jackson's primary interests was making summer camps available to boys and girls across the state. On October 1, 1957, when RA sponsorship was transferred to Brotherhood, Bill's involvement and commitment to WMU continued. In 1967 he was named building supervisor for Camp Mundo Vista. He loved Mundo Vista and some felt he knew and protected every tree and shrub



Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Bill and Ruth Jackson building, Camp Mundo Vista, 1998

on its grounds. The camp committee, executive director, and executive board leaned heavily on his wisdom and expertise throughout the years.

Under his watchful eye, construction had begun in February, 1968, and because of his perseverance, the dedication for the camp was held on June 26, 1969. It was only fitting that this important building on the grounds be dedicated to the Jacksons.

The printed program for the dedication of the Bill and Ruth Jackson Building on February 7, 1998, carried the following: "Bill and Ruth have touched the lives of thousands of men, women and children through their tireless service. Baptists are indebted to this couple for the sacrifices they have made, the joy they have given to others, and the blessings received by many."

Pictures, scrapbooks and formal minutes of meetings give evidence that Camp Mundo Vista has touched the lives of thousands of girls over the years. Many girls have made their profession of faith in Jesus Christ while at camp while others have accepted God's call to His service. Many girls have learned of God's love through the daily personal contact with loving staffers who took time to listen to them, to answer questions, play with them, pray and learn with them, or just to spend time with them. We know that multitudes of young women, touched by Christ's love while at Mundo Vista, are now mission-minded mothers and lead-

ers of WMU organizations and stronger, more effective Christians because of their experiences while at camp.

God has used those who have served on the staff at Mundo Vista and even while they served He spoke to them concerning His plan for their lives. This is evident in the number of former staffers who are now missionaries and who serve in other full time Christian vocations.

Following is a list of those who have served on camp staff, known to the present WMU staff, who are or have been under appointment as missionaries or are in what is considered a full time Christian vocation. (If you know of others, please write a note to the state WMU office and give the name of the former staff member, the year on staff if this is known, and where they are now serving.)

Caroline McManus Jones, Chile

Dianne Keck Daniels, Japan

Marcia McQueen, Hospital Chaplain, Eden

Deborah Duncan Lockey, Minister of Music, pianist,
Newport, N.C.

Gloria Grogan, US-2, Chicago; Baptist Women/Special
Ministries, District of Columbia Baptist Convention

Pat Ritchie Liles, NC WMU; WMU, SBC

Bert Baggett Yates, Kenya

Jolene Ivey, Alabama WMU

Debra McGuire, Chaplain, USN

Marsha Spradlin, Christian Writer and Speaker; WMU, SBC

Jan Rutledge, The Czech Republic

Mundo Vista has also been the place where several couples met and fell in love.

Bert Baggett was working at Mundo Vista the summer that Jack Yates was on staff at Caraway's RA camp. During the several opportunities for fellowship between the staffs at Mundo Vista and Caraway, Bert and Jack met and a friendship developed that grew over the following years at school. Bert and Jack were married in the Outdoor Chapel at Mundo Vista.

Jan Rutledge related that during the summer of 1984 while she was serving on the Mundo Vista staff, she met Kevin Rutledge, a young Journeyman who had been serving in Austria. They became friends and fell in love.

Caroline McManus was a camper at Mundo Vista in 1970 and

returned eight years later to work on the staff. In 1979 she was employed by NC WMU as the camp coordinator and director of Mundo Vista. While recruiting missionaries for the summer camps, she met Archie Jones, a widower and former career missionary to Ecuador. She invited him to serve for one week at camp. By the time the camp season was over that summer they were engaged to be married.

Multitudes of young women who were touched by Christ's love while at Mundo Vista are now living out a missions lifestyle as career women, mothers and leaders in their churches and associations—and wherever God leads them in their daily lives.

CHAPTER TEN

In Christ's Name, Love, Give, Serve, Go

1991-1995

Ann Smith

Ann (Mrs. Sanford) Smith, Greensboro, was elected president in 1991 in annual session held in Winston-Salem. Ann Melvin was a native of Harnett County where her first WMU related experiences came through Sunbeams at the Chalybeate Springs Baptist Church. The name of Mrs. Annie Andrews stands out in her mind as being the woman who kept everything in WMU moving in her church. GAs and state GA houseparties at Meredith College, as well as work on her Forward Steps to become Queen Regent, led her into YWA's.

During Ann's teen years she felt a sense of call to missions, but did not respond to the call at that time. From the time of her GA weekends on the campus of Meredith College she had wanted to go to school at Meredith. That dream was realized and it was there she became increasingly aware God had a purpose for her life.

Those were war years. She married a young man by the name of Sanford Smith who had grown up in her community. He served in the Air Force. After their military years the couple went to Greensboro to live. There Ann



*Ann Smith (Mrs. Sanford), President,
1991-1995*

became involved in a WMU circle at the Florida Street Baptist Church and served as Sunbeams leader. Sara Parker, a pastor's wife in the Piedmont association, was serving as president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. She became Ann's mentor, and Ann would always be involved with Woman's Missionary Union.

The Smiths helped establish a new church in Greensboro, the Rolling Road Baptist Church. Sanford Smith gave lay leadership and Ann did not stop until there was an organized WMU in the church, with all the age-level organizations. She became president of the Piedmont Association WMU and led twelve of the women in leadership to attend the national conventions, WMU, SBC and Southern Baptist Convention, in Norfolk, Virginia in 1976. The WMU, under her leadership, adopted a Vietnamese family. It was a step of faith and commitment to nurture this family as the members established themselves in the United States.

The years of service through WMU became years of spiritual growth and development for Ann Smith. Her focus on the source of strength and direction, her Lord, increased through participation in NC WMU prayer retreats. Martha Franks, former missionary to China, was often a part of these. Ann learned more about her spiritual gifts and how God equips us to do what He has for us to do.

The Smith family built a new house outside of Greensboro, in the country, and became members of Pleasant Garden Baptist Church. They then realized a responsibility for using their gifts of hospitality to reach out to international students and students with special needs. Most of the internationals were in the United States to get their education at one of the several educational institutions in the Greensboro area.

Short-term and long-term residents came to the Smith home: a girl from Bermuda who had been on drugs, a young man from El Salvador in the Interlink program of Guilford County. The Smiths became substitute "Mom" and "Dad" for a continuing stream of internationals through the Piedmont association's Friend-Family program. So they came - black and yellow, brown and white. Their ministry would continue as students married and their children became the Smith's adopted grandchildren with relationships lasting a lifetime.

After the two Smith sons were grown and gone and aging parents no longer needed their attention, the Smiths began to see a place for them in volunteer missions. They became one of the first couples to volunteer for the Christian Service Corps of the Home Mission Board, working with a group of college students in West Virginia. Other opportunities

came as Sanford became Homeland Coordinator for Volunteers through North Carolina Baptist Men. Their hands-on involvement took them to Ohio, New York, West Virginia and Indiana.

The Smith's world expanded. There was the venture into foreign missions. They went to Ecuador with North Carolina missionary Archie Jones, Barbados, Costa Rica, Togo, Poland, the Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and an exploratory trip to Albania and Germany to determine needs that could be met by volunteers. In most instances these mission trips meant taking vacation time and paying all or part of their own expenses.

Doors of opportunity for wider influence and responsibility continued. Ann was asked to serve on the strategic Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. This was at a time when she really questioned God's will. She came to realize that in her own strength she could not do it, but with the grace gift that was God-given, she could and should. She served with great courage through many difficult sessions during this period of great unrest and change in the Southern Baptist Convention. She did her best to make a difference. After her term as president she remained active in Baptist life, serving as first vice president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Nancy Curtis had lived out her calling to missions through North Carolina WMU for over twenty years, seventeen of them as executive director. The Baptist conflict had been raging for twelve years and women were being challenged about their role in God's plan for the ages even as they had been 100 years earlier. Nancy could see the need for ongoing, strong, energetic leadership for the years just ahead. She knew what needed to be done. She felt WMU would endure and prevail but that a new, fresh, leader would be needed. If she had shared this feeling with those around her, they would not have agreed with her. Across several months, God had made it very clear to her, in several different ways, that it was time for her to retire. Many tributes were paid to Nancy as her retirement approached. Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director, said, "Nancy has provided able leadership in her state, but perhaps her influence in WMU, SBC has been even more significant. We have benefited greatly from her dynamic leadership over the past 20 years." During Nancy's tenure as executive director, NC WMU provided financial and other support for WMU in "pioneer" or developing states. She traveled to the European Baptist Convention and Brazil during the partnership emphases. Her love of children led her to be a GA leader in

her church. Nancy Curtis led NC WMU with integrity, commitment and dedication. She was a mentor, a confidante, and a role model for many women across the state.

The executive board, upon the recommendation of Ann Smith, asked Dot Allred to serve as the interim executive director. After much prayer, Dot felt God wanted her to be willing to do this.

The interim period was marked with a heightened awareness of the need for a concert of prayer on the part of the staff in the Cary office and women throughout the state. Those in close proximity to what was happening in WMU plans and events, were very conscious of ongoing support from prayers throughout the state, from missionaries at home and on far away fields, from Mission Friends and GA groups in local churches, youth groups on college campuses, the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, and friends of missions around the world. God heard and answered prayers day by day and the work was blessed.

A search committee was named to fill the position of executive director. Chaired by Donice Harrod, Nashville, it included Eunice Bland, Wake Forest, Cathy Brooks, Gastonia, Charlotte Cook, Lexington, Beverly Hamblen, Winston-Salem, Corinne Harris, Pendelton, Rebecca Nance, Fayetteville, Ruby Fulbright, Taylorsville, Tana Hartsell, Concord, Ann Smith, Greensboro, president, and Dot Allred, Belmont, interim executive director.

A full schedule of training and plans for other events were already in place and were successfully implemented during the interim period. Efforts to strengthen and further develop the spiritual gifts of all those on staff, both program personnel and support staff, became a focus for the interim period. Dot Allred secured the services of Dr. John Savage, internationally known figure in the development of leadership skills, for a weekend seminar. The entire executive board participated, along with the staff. Also a retreat was held to strengthen team building. Dr. Jim Toole led the staff.

Dot Allred's leadership was accepted by the excellent, cooperating WMU staff, and by the Baptist State Convention staff at large. She had already served two terms on the general board and executive committee of the Baptist State Convention. This enabled her to be much more familiar with relationships and common purposes without having to spend time establishing and cultivating them. Ann Smith said, "Dot Allred provided a steadying influence during those days of change."

Ann felt strongly that North Carolina Baptist women should have

opportunities to work with their sisters in the partnerships between the Baptist State Convention and specific mission fields. In a trip to Poland and two trips to Ukraine, Ann met with her counterparts in women's work to determine how best to help them. Money was sent to buy a copy machine for the women of Poland who had no means of duplicating correspondence or teaching materials. Bed sheets were purchased for the new seminary in Warsaw.

The trips to Ukraine led Ann to invite Hope Kommendant, leader of Ukrainian Baptist women, and her husband, Dr. Gregory Kommendant, General Secretary of Ukraine Baptist Union, to the 1994 North Carolina WMU annual meeting at Ridgecrest. Alex Goncharov, a student at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, was the translator. Hope Kommendant expressed gratitude for prayers, for the support of missionaries and for the new seminary being built by North Carolina Baptists. She explained some of the conditions under which Christianity existed, largely among the women, and the new freedom permitting it to spread through schools, homes for aging, orphanages, and new churches.

Missions Extravaganza

During Ann Smith's presidency the annual meeting name was changed to Missions Extravaganza. At the Ridgecrest meeting North Carolina women had opportunity to see, hear and talk with Hope Kommendant, the passionate Christian woman from the Ukraine. The women learned so much about the suffering of her people for their faith. President Ann Smith said, "God used this kyros of time for our state to reach out to those women." Among other things, they were sent money through personal efforts of Eunice Bland, first vice president, and Ann Smith, to enable them to print a Christian magazine. The women of the Ukraine had requested Bible studies on the women of the Bible. These requests were also met.

Mrs. Kommendant, in her concluding remarks, expressed gratitude for being in the North Carolina WMU meeting. She said she was looking forward to the day of the Lord's coming when translators would not be required. It was a high moment on top of many other "highs" of the 1994 meeting.

Paula O'Briant, Acteens consultant and Camp Mundo Vista director, reported on successful efforts of local leadership with Acteens in the churches. This brought another reason for praise and intercession as

seven Acteens Activators Teams from throughout the state were commissioned and sent forth, with renewed commitments being made by the Acteens, and also by the many parents and leaders in the audience. Hope was renewed that many of the finest young people are in our churches and just need our continued nurturing and support to be all that God would have them to be.

Mrs. Carolyn Miller, WMU, SBC president, and Alma Hunt, executive director of national WMU for 26 years, and retired for twenty years, along with several home and foreign missionaries, spoke to the theme: "In Christ's Name: Love...Give...Serve...Go."

Two language groups—Hearing Impaired and Hispanic—were in attendance and interpreters were provided for all sessions.

Significant action was taken to limit the term of office of elected officers to four consecutive years, with one year elapsing before they become eligible for election to the previously held office (Article 5, Section 4 of the By-Laws).

Another amendment was approved related to the WMU Camp Committee. Previously the chairman of this committee had not been an automatic member of the executive board. The change provided for the chairman of the camp committee to also serve on the executive board. Term of service for camp committee members was limited to no more than five consecutive years.

Plans were announced for the observance of the 25th Anniversary of Camp Mundo Vista on May 21, 1994. It was reported some 50,000 woman and children had experienced God through summer camps, prayer retreats, prison retreats, and other events at the camp (see chapter 9).

To the joy of long time WMU women and younger women, leadership roles in many of the churches and on the leadership teams of the associations were increasingly being filled by enthusiastic, missions-committed, spiritually-gifted, young women. Many of these were the products of the age-level organizations and the mentoring and role models provided by much older women. Fannie E. S. Heck had been so right when she reportedly admonished the women who would follow her, to "Train the children."

New Executive Director Irma C. Duke

The women of the state marveled at how God had led North Carolina WMU to Irma C. Duke to become the new executive director.

A native of Martinsville, Virginia, Irma was born April 22, 1951. While growing up she lived in Lakeland, Florida and worked her way through Southern College in Lakeland. She received her degree in journalism. Irma had been nurtured in the home and in the local church, was recognized as a GA Queen. After her marriage to James Duke she worked while her husband completed his degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1975 the Dukes moved to Richmond, Virginia, where Jim became minister of education and youth at Broadus Memorial Baptist Church. Irma became a staff writer for the Foreign Mission Board's news and information services department, with a concentration on news in East and Southeast Asia. In 1988 she was named associate vice president for communications and public relations.

Irma Duke served in leadership positions in the local church and association for several WMU age-level organizations, including RAs. The Dukes had two sons, Jonathan Lee and Jason Linwood.

Irma C. Duke was elected to the position of Executive Director by the Executive Board of NC WMU on March 19, 1994, and was presented to the women of North Carolina at their meeting in Ridgecrest, April 8-10, 1994.

In the annual report to the Baptist State Convention in 1994, Irma Duke reviewed the functioning of the state organization. She explained it was administered by an executive board comprised of the officers, age-level and camp committee chairmen, and 15 members-at-large from the ten state regions.

Ministries were growing in every area of the state as the women and youth organizations went about providing hope for hurting humanity. Women from 52 associations provided Christmas boxes for more than 700 women inmates at the four largest women's correctional facilities. Scripture portions and whole Bibles were distributed.



Irma Duke (Mrs. James) Executive Director 1994-2000

Ministries of North Carolina women reached beyond the state boundaries as they worked among the Baptists of New York and with people in the Ukraine as a part of the partnership efforts with the Baptist State Convention. WMU worked primarily with women in those locations.

At Christmas time North Carolina Baptist women continued to remember missionaries under appointment with magazines, books and other gifts. They ministered to MKs (missionary kids) who were in the United States going to college.

Ann said of her years as president: "What a joy to serve the Master, to follow in the footsteps of so many capable, devoted women, to feel the love of the women in North Carolina, and yes, those in other parts of the world. It was a serendipity that I could never have imagined, but God had planned all along. I was blessed and honored as well as humbled by the faith and dedication of staff and leadership across the state."

CHAPTER ELEVEN

For I Know the Plans I Have for You

1995-1999

Donice McCormick Harrod

On April 1, 1995 Donice McCormick Harrod (Mrs. J.D.) was elected sixteenth president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina at the three day Annual Session/Missions Extravaganza at Ridgecrest Conference Center. A native of Rock Hill, South Carolina, she was on the WMU Executive Board for eleven years, and served as second vice president and first vice president. She served alongside her husband in the church pastorate and on the mission fields of Brazil and a North Carolina Baptist association.

The new president recalled her involvement in Woman's Missionary Union. She had vivid memories of being a Sunbeam in the Northside Baptist Church in Rock Hill, singing a Sunbeam song about "carrying the light to make the world bright." She also remembered the GA organization and her mother attaching great importance to her memorizing scripture, reading about missionaries, and listening to missionaries speak. She was impressed that her mother thought this was important training for her daughters. It was so important she would often leave a long day of work at



*Donice Harrod (Mrs. J. D.),
President, 1995-1999*

her beauty shop and go straight to the church to meet with the GAs to encourage them to do good work on their Forward Steps. The mother's expectations were high and the memory work was hard. Yet God had so much more in store for those two girls in the family than their mother could have ever dreamed. Both girls married ministers and served alongside their husbands as foreign missionaries.

Donice loved music and after college she taught public school music. As a YWA in college, and then as an adult, she became aware that God really wanted her for some kind of church-related work. She felt she would need to go to a seminary to further prepare herself but she did not know how this would be possible. She applied for the South Carolina WMU scholarship, and to her surprise, she received a scholarship for Southern Seminary in Louisville where she studied in the school of church music.

While at the Seminary, Donice discovered God had something more in mind for her. She met J. D. Harrod, a seminary student studying for the ministry and a missions volunteer. His proposal of marriage contained the question of whether she would be willing to be a foreign missionary. She told him she guessed if God called him to the mission field she would be willing to go, also. They were married in 1961.

After seminary days, J. D. was called to a church in South Carolina. At an associational WMU meeting held in the church the missionary speaker was Sophia Nichols, missionary to Brazil. At that time both J. D. and Donice felt clearly God's call to missions. Together they made their commitment to Him. They were appointed in 1966 to Brazil. Their only child, Roberta Lynn, was then five months old.

Because WMU had been so vital in her life, Donice felt the avenue of ministry open to her through this organization could fulfill her calling as a missionary through spiritual development, mission opportunities and prayer support.

The missionary prayer calendar provided an indescribable experience for each of them on the dates their birthdays were listed. At the same time they were praying on the other side of mission support from their assignment in Brazil. The couple prayed through the difficult experience of having to leave the field and return home because of the health of their daughter, Roberta. They faced dark days with many unknowns.

The Harrods left their much-loved work in Brazil in 1974, and in that year J. D. Harrod became director of missions for the Central Baptist Association in High Point. Through North Carolina WMU Donice began

to speak in local churches around the state on behalf of foreign missions. Not long after coming to North Carolina she was invited to attend training sessions provided by WMU for those willing to lead prayer retreats. The training proved to be a rewarding experience. It met her personal needs and helped her to grow, to study, and to pray and then to provide opportunities to lead others. Challenges which had seemed impossible were lifted by a God who helped her to do things she never imagined she would do when she was singing her Sunbeam song as a five-year-old.

In 1991 the Harrods were called to serve the North Roanoke Association, he as director of missions and she as the second staff member in the office.

The stateside years opened doors of opportunity for Donice to serve as church music director in several churches in the area in which they lived, as well as to do ministry, working as associational secretary with her husband for almost two decades.

Her commitment to missions had not changed—only the place of doing missions had changed. She recognized she was on mission every day, no matter the setting or how varied the opportunities. Her focus was on being in word and deed, a missionary, constantly pointing people to Jesus. Amidst all the clamor of a busy office doing mundane things, her purpose for being there was always clear.

Donice Harrod served fifteen consecutive years on the WMU executive board (including her service as an officer). As a woman intent on an ever-deepening relationship with the Lord, and with the wealth of preparation which her own Christian pilgrimage had provided, she had much to give to decisions that had to be made as a leader in NC WMU. She became well known and loved in the state through the many prayer retreats she led and mission studies she taught. Her husband often shared the teaching assignments.

While she was first vice president Donice was named to chair the search committee to secure a new executive director. She considered that as perhaps her greatest contribution to the state organization, feeling after much prayer, hard work, and many interviews, that God had led them to Irma Duke.

When Donice was elected president the bond had already been established with the new executive director, and they worked together effectively to lead NC WMU, to go forward. There were changes in the organization on the national level, in the state and in the denomination.



Jan High, Carolyn Hopkins, Ann Smith, Marcia McQueen pose with the new Women on Mission Logo

There were changes in leadership style and in relationships. The only thing that was constant was change.

The executive director and president, and the entire WMU staff, worked together to explore ideas for the forward movement of the organizations and the thousands of women who were living out their faith in these organizations in North Carolina. They listened intently to the ideas of others in leadership workshops and, where feasible, tried to incorporate those grass roots ideas in future planning. Age-level directors/consultants were especially close to the leadership in the associations and local churches as that leadership related to specific events, and training.

Listening to the associational and local church leadership was an integral part of the process since this helped state staff customize and design programs and events to meet the identified needs in the local church. The staff realized it took the whole team from the state to successfully identify and meet the needs of the women in the churches. It was essential that associational and local leaders in the WMU organizations work together to set directions and goals for the state. They recognized that after the best training possible had been provided at the top level, the key people were the leaders in the associations who in turn trained and encouraged the leaders in the local churches. These key people were the real heroes in training and ministry.

This approach to strengthening and helping leadership was not new. It required diligence and commitment of leaders, who each year con-

tinued giving their best. Otherwise the work would not grow and be sustained. Leaders in the associations and churches depended on such leadership. Each year new ideas and successes could be seen as God continued to raise up quality leaders in each arena of leadership who were committed to missions.

Visioning for North Carolina WMU

At the May 20, 1995 meeting of the executive board, Charlotte Cook, chairman of the finance committee, reported that "much discussion and consideration has been given to visioning in the area of Woman's Missionary Union." She noted this was in response to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's "Brister Report" (report of the SBC Executive Committee's Program and Structure Committee). They felt the actions taken following the report would definitely affect WMU work at state and local levels.

Simply put, WMU had not been included in the SBC program of work.

At the Missions Extravaganza held in March at Ridgecrest, missionaries gave their testimonies relating their initial commitment to missions due to the influence of WMU organizations and leadership. There was an underlying concern for the future of WMU indicated by many comments made during the three day meeting attended by nearly 3,000 North Carolina women.

The finance committee presented the following recommendations:

That study and investigation of creative funding and finance to secure the future of North Carolina WMU and to provide increased missions funding be made, and that the president appoint a Development Council (ad hoc committee) to present its recommendations to this board.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted and the finance committee commended for its work (Minutes of May 19-20, 1995 meeting).

Staff retreats were held to evaluate staff assignments in light of new organizational structures in the Baptist State Convention as they affected Woman's Missionary Union. A Convention sponsored seminar, led by Ken Callahan, concentrated on enhancing their strengths rather than trying to improve their weaknesses. Floyd Craig, marketing research

specialist, and Bill Boatwright from North Carolina convention staff, assisted in determining the kinds of information WMU members wanted and how to get it. Members and non-members participated in focus groups.

At the March executive board meeting in 1996 it was necessary for the following staff members to again be voted on, in keeping with requirements of the legal incorporation procedures. Approved at that time were:

Irma Duke, Executive Director/Treasurer
Carolyn Hopkins, Mission Development Consultant
Jan High, Mission Education Consultant
Jeanette Walters, Mission Ministries Consultant
Cara Lynn Croom, Mission Support Consultant

Missions Extravaganza 1996

Theme for this annual gathering/training meeting was "Journey of a Lifetime." Dr. Anne Davis, Bible scholar and past dean of Carver School of Missions, Louisville, Kentucky, led the Bible study for the sessions, beginning with Exodus 13:17-22 and 40:34-38.

Dr. Davis likened WMU to the journey of the Israelites. She said in her journey of a lifetime the only group that always held her up was WMU, who educated her, taught her and opened her eyes to missions. She concluded, "Yes, in the journey of a lifetime, God is always with us. He has something for us to do just as He did for the children of Israel in the wilderness. He probably will not lead you in a straight way, but a round about way. He will always be with you and will let you know when to move ahead and when to stand still." Her message was followed by the exuberant singing of "We Are Marching in the Light of God."

Other scriptures used during the Bible studies at the beginning of each session included the passages in Ruth about Elijah running for his life and God reminding Elijah he was not in control, but that "I am."

At this annual session and Missions Extravaganza three language groups were present: Spanish, Korean and Hearing Impaired. Joyce Smith was recognized and presented a plaque for her ministry of signing for the deaf at WMU annual meetings for 25 years.

Other recognitions at the meeting included Shamrock Drive Baptist Church, Charlotte, for 25 years of distinguished work.

Carolyn Hopkins introduced a first: recognition of associations for

their attendance at the annual meetings. Eunice Bland, first vice president, presented certificates to Gaston Baptist Association which had 86 registered in attendance, and Stoney Fork Association for the largest percentage of members present, 15 of 49 (30%).

Jeanette Walters reported 320 boxes of food had been sent to the North Korea Famine Relief effort and expressed appreciation to the churches and associations participating. Irma Duke called attention to Governor James Hunt's plan for enlisting WMU women as volunteers to work with children. She pointed out this seemed perfect timing for WMU. Project Help: Child Advocacy, was already planned as a primary thrust for ministry and included mentoring children and giving other needed help to children in the schools of the state.

A major highlight at each annual gathering of North Carolina WMU is hearing missionaries, often North Carolina ones, who have been, or are, under appointment of the mission boards. At the 1996 meeting Rebecca Knott McKinley and Rosalind Knott Harrell, twins, used dialogue to share their life journeys. Each journey was similar. The two had been nurtured by parents with a deep faith in God. They shared experiences and teachings in Sunbeam Band, Girls' Auxiliary, and God's call to serve with their husband-partner in different countries in Africa. They emphasized the undergirding sense of the reality of God's presence and assurance that He is always there. Because He is always there, we are empowered.

In a July 1996 memorandum to the development council and NC WMU officers, Irma Duke gave the rationale and encouragement to strengthen financial support for NC WMU, and ultimately, missions around the world. She referred to Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Excerpts from Irma's memo:

Our past uniquely positioned us to impact the needs of women and children across our state as no other Christian women's organization can. We are the strongest statewide network of Christian women's organization in the world. In addition to our network, we have that unparalleled capacity to raise money for missions. Woman's Missionary Union, during its 110 years, has been on the cutting edge of missions financing. Its initial purpose was to raise money to send new missionar-

ies to China. Since that time, we have led Southern Baptists in giving more than \$2 billion for home and foreign missions causes.

We have been innovators in stewardship. WMU started the special missions offerings for foreign and home missions and a pension plan for pastors. On more than one occasion, we have pulled our mission boards out of debt. We were instrumental in starting the Cooperative Program. We've taught millions of Southern Baptists the biblical basis of stewardship of our time, money and being.

New giving patterns and multiplied needs call for new methods. Giving patterns have changed and now it's time to look at new ways to undergird missions causes, and once again, WMU wants to be on the cutting edge. As we move into the 21st Century, this current generation will be passing on trillions of dollars to children and their favorite causes. We want to be there to give them the satisfaction that they can live on through their estates by giving to the causes they lived for.

It's time to re-invent missions stewardship. It's time to teach people to give more productively. It's time to reclaim our lead as a pacesetter in missions giving and confront our women with new opportunities to make a financial difference.

In answer to our prayers, we feel that God sent Edna Walters our way, a woman with more than thirty years' experience in fund-raising for nonprofit organizations. But more than that, a woman who says she wants to use her fund-raising gift for the greatest cause of all, to reach people for Jesus Christ.

At the September 22-23 executive board meeting, the finance committee reported that a Revocable Trust had been established with the North Carolina Baptist Foundation for the receipt of funds for an endowment. Charlotte Cook, chairman, reported on some of the legal ramifications in establishing an endowment in perpetuity with only the income from the fund being used as is set out in the legal instrument. She pointed out the immediate need for a good brochure to be distrib-

uted at the Baptist State Convention in November. Baptists of North Carolina needed to be educated before any major campaign could be started.

The finance committee recommended that the name for the endowment be "North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union Missions and Ministries Endowment." Approval was given.

Edna Walters, who already lived in the Raleigh area, had been employed several years by state and nationally known non-profit organizations in their efforts to develop support and increase giving. Her ongoing personal involvement with WMU led her to be willing to come on staff in an official capacity as Development Director for North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, beginning November 1, 1996. Irma Duke had consulted with Dr. Roy Smith, executive director-treasurer, and other Baptist State Convention leadership, regarding Edna Walters and the new staff position. Information was supplied regarding others who inquired about the position. Since there was no budget provision for the position, Edna had to generate her own salary and initial set-up expenses even as she began to work in an area somewhat unfamiliar to many of the women. Edna brought her vision of what the women could do if given the challenge and the process for doing it. As the necessary educational ground work was laid she began to launch pilot projects which could then be expanded across the state.

A strong, hard working, Development Advisory Committee was enlisted to give their expertise to the new development efforts. The committee met monthly at Meredith College to forge this new approach for support for North Carolina WMU. The committee was composed of: Kenneth Tutterow, Greensboro; Jack Causey, Statesville; Frances Cooke, Raleigh; Cheryl Cruickshank, Cary; Irma Duke, Cary; Mary Lily Gaddy, Raleigh; Donice Harrod, Rocky Mount; Alex Holmes, Raleigh; Linda Kreiter, Cary; George McCotter, Garner; Murphy Osborne, Raleigh; Ann Smith, Greensboro; Janelle Snider, Greensboro; Ed Vick, Raleigh; and Edna Walters, Cary.

The women of North Carolina were informed of the ways they could help assure the continuance and strengthening of Woman's Missionary Union in the present and in the future, even after they are gone. Money began to come in, slowly but surely, through various processes and opportunities. Living legacies became realities.

Growth Emphases

Always there was an emphasis on involving more and more women in missions. But the emphasis was greater in some years than in others. In 1997 it was noted the greatest numerical growth came in the coed organizations: Children in Action, Youth on Mission, Adults on Mission. These organizations became options primarily in small, new churches, or in churches where there was not sufficient leadership or children for separate RA and GA organizations. It was also noted churches with youth ministers often wanted to include all activities in their planning, choosing to have the boys and girls meet together. WMU offered materials and help for missions to be included in the activities for youth. For adults, where there was no active Baptist Men's organization, there were men who wanted to be included in the mission efforts. Materials and help were also provided for this type organization.

SBC Political Waves

Disappointing and frustrating news came from WMU, SBC in the mid-90's. Dr. Jerry Rankin of the Foreign Mission Board objected to the WMU, SBC producing missions education supplements for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Baptist moderates opposed to the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative leadership. The decision of WMU to produce some CBF mission materials was not seen by WMU as taking away from, but adding to, support of missionaries and their ministries. After all, it was well known the Sunday School Board had published Sunday School materials for several para-denominational groups and other small denominational groups (non-Baptist) for many years.

SBC WMU leadership stated they were simply responding to a request from churches for materials which include information about what the CBF was doing in missions ... and it was their desire and purpose to equip all Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission.

Much earlier in North Carolina, the wise and courageous executive director, Nancy Curtis, along with Marcia McQueen, Jan High, Suthell Walker and other staff members began to recognize the increasing possibility that some people in the political melee might not want WMU of NC to continue to give help to all the churches and to all the women. Leaders at all levels prayed about and discussed the matter. There was clear consensus that leadership should continue to help in whatever

ways they could, to promote missions, distribute information about what was happening on the mission fields, and respond to requests to provide leadership assistance.

Scarcely any attention and wasted energy was given to arguing about who was promoting missions and the political furor surrounding the day to day ministry of the women. They continued to train...to meet...to give...to share... Christ's love in ever-growing dimensions. The underlying truth, "For ye serve the Lord Christ" enabled them to keep their focus.

1999 Missions Extravaganza

The 108th Annual Meeting/Missions Extravaganza was held April 23-25, 1999, at the Conference Center at Ridgecrest with President Donice Harrod presiding.

Programming for this annual event has embraced a general theme and included an emphasis on Bible study, worship, concerted prayer, training conferences, messages and conferences with missionaries, and inspirational messages. Over 100 conferences for information and training were available, with each participant choosing two or three most in keeping with her needs and interests. Everyone met together for the scheduled plenary sessions.

The theme for 1999 was "Transformed." Before the beginning of each of the larger, plenary sessions, Sherri McNeill, a potter, was positioned on left stage, where she quietly, deftly, patiently shaped and reshaped a beautiful piece of pottery. There was a quieting of the audience as they witnessed the powerful demonstration of transforming a piece of common clay into a beautiful vessel. The significance of this became more profound with the passing of the days at this event.

A significant part of Missions Extravaganza is the business session. Each year, the Nominating Committee submits the names for officers, executive board and nominating committee members. The Finance Committee recommends a budget and the Policy Committee recommends updates and revisions to the By-Laws.

Approximately 3,000 women participated in all or part of the sessions, with no count taken of those who drove in from their homes. For those who have attended year after year, there have been changes in the faces, but never a change in the focus of the gatherings. The focus has always been and is—MISSIONS.

During the 1999 sessions, one former president said, "It was such a

joy to be on the platform today and to realize that the number of black and blonde heads in the audience at least equaled or maybe even surpassed the number of white and gray heads!" That was a clear indication to her that more young women were becoming leaders and being involved for missions in their churches.

Music for the annual sessions has always been outstanding. The theme interpretation gave evidence of many ways in which God transforms the lives of the women and the lives of the people to whom they are ministering, and telling the Good News of Jesus Christ. The theme was interpreted through drama, music, personal testimonies, readings and visual demonstrations.

In glimpses of WMU history, three monologues were given: "Catharine Campbell White" was presented by Lynn Odom. "Fannie E. S. Heck" was presented by Glendora Epperson and "Sally Bailey Jones" was presented by Joyce Love.

This historical emphasis was entitled "Shoe Filling" and each woman closed her remarks with the question, "Who will fill my shoes?" Response to the question was given by a modern day woman on mission, Martha McDowell. She closed her remarks with the prayer, "May Jesus bless the steps we take!"

Irma Duke read from Matthew 5:14-16, which challenges Christians to be "light" and "salt." She gave examples of ways women throughout the state are doing this.

- A GA in Wilmington who shared her most precious possession with a 100-year old woman.
- Sandra Harrison and 400 Women on Mission in her association who have helped more than 5,000 people through their Christmas ministry and have seen many come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through that ministry.
- South African women who are now receiving *Missions Mosaic* because of NC Women on Mission's generosity.
- More than 160 GAs and leaders in Raleigh Association who chose to emphasize the Project HELP: Violence emphasis by highlighting the peace of God in letting loose 100 doves—an international symbol of peace.
- Bernice Smith who had helped dozens of young children by tutoring them, teaching them moral values, and now at 80 plus years is continuing to teach two young boys.

- Becky Daves, who lost a granddaughter twelve years ago and today leads her church to help children through the Samantha Project in which they make and share dolls which have no hair on them for children going through cancer treatment. On each doll's chest is written, "Jesus loves you."
- Nine WMU women in a small church who raised more than \$140 a person for Camp Mundo Vista and the Christian Women's Job Corps. They also started three new mission organizations.

Irma Duke noted these people embody missions.

Mary Ashe, NC WMU Resource Team member, led in prayer thanking God for the Burnt Swamp Association's Women on Mission and the NC WMU staff members who are going to build a habitat house for a mother with six children. She thanked God for the Christian Women's Job Corps and the mentors and proteges as they are transformed by God's mighty power at work in them.

Bert Yates, home on furlough with her family from Kenya, shared how she and her family had experienced many difficult times, such as leaving a child in the states following their last furlough, having a totally new assignment on their return to the field, and the writing of a book for leaders of WMU and Baptist Men. She realized that what was important was that she have a willing heart to be used as God directed. She referred to II Chronicles 20:15, which had ministered to her. She had to realize God was responsible for the outcome, not Bert. Her responsibility was to be available to Him.

"This One Thing—Missions"

This was the last session Donice Harrod, president and Eunice Bland, first vice-president, would serve in such capacities as their terms of service expired with this meeting. The two former foreign missionaries had leaned heavily on each other: Donice usually in the forefront, but Eunice providing behind the scenes support with her wisdom, prayers, and encouragement.

For Eunice Bland's life, has been, and continues to be lived in a missions lifestyle. This lifestyle began when she was a Sunbeam under the leadership of her mother. It was in GA camps that missions touched her life in a special way. She went as many years as she was allowed to attend as a camper, then was permitted to attend as the camp bugler.

Connell Smith, an older RA, taught the book, *So This Is Africa*, to the RAs and GAs in her church. He told about the medical needs there and that he felt God calling him to meet those needs.

Fourteen years later, now a missionary surgeon, Dr. Loy Connell Smith, and his wife, Eunice, were appointed to Nigeria by the Foreign Mission Board. When Dr. Smith was killed in an auto accident on the mission field, God was not through with Eunice. He relocated her to the Foreign Mission Board offices in Richmond, VA. It was there some years later she met Dr. Tom Bland, professor of Christian Ethics and Sociology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. After her marriage to Dr. Bland, she found herself back in local church ministry as the pastor's wife in the many interims and church starts that Dr. Bland participated in.

In sharing her testimony with the executive board she said, "We cannot always understand why things happen but we can always trust God." Her value to North Carolina WMU cannot be measured here. With her quiet, stately, elegant manner she brought strength to every situation.

Donice Harrod addressed the meeting from her perspective as outgoing president. Her service had been from 1995 to 1999. She noted a poet had remarked that the dates of one's birth and death are separated by a dash. What mattered most was how we spent our "dash"—the period of our lifetime.

Donice shared how she had experienced great joy in her visits to the many churches and associations in the state where she had been privileged to speak. She also said there had been many painful times when she had been driven to her knees. She recalled the first national board meeting which she attended and heard a leader of one of the mission boards say: "That which holds us together as Southern Baptists is no longer missions." Donice said she wept much over that statement, and in talking with God asked Him what hope was there if missions were not our driving force?

She exclaimed that the urgency of missions must supersede the differences that exist among Southern Baptists! She said the good news is that WMU is weathering the storm of controversy in the SBC because we have maintained our focus on "This one thing—Missions." She challenged the women to stay focused and to use the tools God has given them to lead WMU boldly into the next century.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Top of the Millennium

2000

“Come Go With Me” was the national—and state—theme for the year 1997-98. It focused on God’s call to everyone to be on mission for Him. In keeping with that theme, North Carolina WMU adopted the following mission statement:

“To motivate and mobilize North Carolina Christians to be on mission with God”

The ongoing emphasis was the biblical basis of missions because so few church members seemed to understand their responsibility and obligation to be on mission with God.

In response to the continuing popularity and helpfulness of Missions Extravaganza weekends each year, plans were made for the years 2000 and 2001 to have two weekends for this business, training and inspirational event. The dates were set for March 21-April 2 and May 5-7, 2000 (both at Ridgecrest). In 2001, the dates would be March 23-25 and March 30-April 1 (both at Ridgecrest).

Ruby Jones Fulbright

The Christian pilgrimage of Ruby Jones Fulbright (Mrs. Ellis G., Sr.), elected president April 24, 1999, was evidence of God’s guiding presence in her life and of her commitment to Him.

Born in Kinston, North Carolina, Ruby was a graduate of Harding High School in Charlotte and attended Mars Hill College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. The Fulbrights had three children: Patricia Ann Harrell, Gadsen, AL, Ellis Grady, Jr., Hickory, and Amelia Kay Fulbright, Cincinnati, Ohio.

For twelve years Ruby and her family called Zambia, Africa, home. They served as Southern Baptist missionaries. Since that time she served as a volunteer missionary to Brazil in August 1989, to East

Africa in October 1989, and to South Africa in 1998. On these trips she focused on work with Acteens and encouragement and training for leadership with women and children. She served from 1995 to 1999 as second vice president of NC WMU. During this period she represented NC WMU in mission partnerships in South Africa, Alaska and New York.

The new president was challenged by her new responsibilities which had to mesh with her part-time employment as director of discipleship and missions at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenville. Her director of missions husband, Ellis, served the South Roanoke Baptist Association where Ruby was also an active participant.



*Ruby Fulbright (Mrs. Ellis G., Sr.)
President, 1999-*

Following the Missions Extravaganza at Ridgecrest and the election of officers and board members, the executive board held a brief breakfast meeting in Rhododendron Hall, April 25, 1999. Five members were elected from the members at large to serve with the officers to form the executive committee, to act when necessary between board meetings. Elected were Joan Ayscue, Ann Bryant, Caroline Jones, Sharon Kephart and Robbie Sneed.

Preparing for 2000

The new president called attention to a handout listing 1999-2000 WMU Executive Board "Sisters." The sense of family on the executive board had prompted the idea of constant concern and prayer support for one other.

During orientation for new board members Ruby and Irma reviewed the difference in the roles of board members and those of the WMU staff.

Prayer leaflets were distributed encouraging the board to pray for Dr. Jim Royston, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State

Convention, and Dr. Tony Cartledge, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*. They were reminded to pray for them every day. Both of these leaders serve in strategic capacities in the life of North Carolina Baptists, and have been strong supporters and encouragers of the efforts of Woman's Missionary Union.

Plans were put in place for Missions Extravaganza 2000. The theme would be "Be the One," chosen in keeping with a Missions Growth Plan beginning in the year 2000. It was to be a five year focus on "A Place for You...in WMU." Reports from the churches and attendance at training events showed more and more younger women were finding WMU a place to live out their faith and ministry, beginning in the local church.

The year 2000 was the first time this important event was held on two weekends instead of one.

Missions Extravaganza II (second weekend) did not include an official business session, but in other ways was similar to the first weekend. A plus was it provided an Acteens track, with approximately 325 Acteens and advisors present. It was refreshing to see the Acteens on campus at the same time as the Women on Mission. There were some joint sessions.

The Acteens had Missions Live from the North American Mission Board to do music/drama, along with missionaries Beth Perkins, International Mission Board, and Dottie Williamson, South Carolina. Five state Acteens panel members assisted with the program. They reported Acteens Day on college campuses is growing.

Campbell University hosted Acteens Day in February 2000. More than 300 Acteens and advisors attended. Meredith College had Acteens Day on October 14 with good attendance. North Carolina provided a National Acteens Panelist, Tera Hayes, from Dudley Shoals Church, Caldwell Association. She represented North Carolina well at the WMU Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. North Carolina also had a National Acteens Top Teen, Erin Thacker, also from Dudley Shoals Church.

Year-end records indicate six Acteens Activators groups served during the summer ministering and witnessing across the country. They were:

Caldwell Association Team—Alaska

Enon Church, Catawba River Association—Charleston, SC

Poovey's Chapel, Caldwell Association—Charleston, SC
NC State Acteens Team—Charleston, SC
Dudley Shoals Church, Caldwell Association—Surf City, NC
Jonesboro Heights Church, Sandy Creek Association—
Goldsboro, NC.

In Charleston more than 167 Acteens and advisors assisted the association in multi-housing, beach, seamen's, migrant and vendor ministries. They made more than 2,300 contacts, witnessed 153 professions of faith, and gave \$600 to aid in migrant ministry.

Irma Duke submitted her resignation as executive director-treasurer for WMU of North Carolina, effective July 5, 2000, to become director of student services and church relations at the Divinity School, Campbell University. While attending Campbell University Divinity School, she had become impressed with the school's desire to be on the cutting edge of missions. She felt there were tremendous opportunities to nurture students in missions and other areas.

On behalf of the executive board, Ruby Fulbright, president, expressed appreciation for the work the Lord had accomplished through Irma's leadership, particularly in development, language work, Christian Women's Job Corps, ministers' wives and women's ministries. A reception was held for her at the Baptist Building.

Ruby Fulbright, president, agreed to spend two or three days in the WMU office, while also handling some of the administrative matters from her home until an interim director could be secured.

Language Missions

With the increasing in-migration and growth of the ethnic population in North Carolina, a milestone was reached when Linda Hicks was added to the WMU staff as full-time language coordinator. For several years interpreters had aided those attending WMU meetings from the language churches or those from language groups within other churches. This number grew each year. In 2000 almost 200 registered for Missions Extravaganza from six different language/culture groups. Wives of Hispanic pastors formed a support group and scheduled their first Pastors' Wives Retreat at Mundo Vista. Their primary interests were in the areas of hands-on missions and family issues. Women from Hispanic, Korean, Vietnamese and Hmong, and Japanese churches attended state and/or

national WMU training in order to assist other churches in their language group in organizing and strengthening WMU mission organizations.

God called out leaders from the language groups. Maria Aldridge, from Cuba, was elected WMU director for Avery Association, Alejandria Oviedo, from Argentina, was a new board member from Hendersonville. Several ethnics were members of the statewide WMU Resource Team.

Christian Women's Job Corps

The CWJC was developed by the national Woman's Missionary Union and training was offered for state leaders. The program was identified by President Bill Clinton and



**Christian Women's
Job Corps
of North Carolina
A Ministry
of WMU**

Vice President Al Gore as a model for impacting one of our nation's most challenging problems. The program challenged Christian women to help change the lives of women who were struggling to find a better life for themselves and their children. It helped welfare recipients find and keep jobs and make successful transitions from welfare to work, a complicated process.

Without a support system, simple problems become major obstacles. Women on Mission could help with such things as health care, child care, transportation, education, development skills, knowing how to interview for a job, how to dress, and more.

In 1999 the North Carolina CWJC became a free-standing non-profit corporation. The initial board members were Eunice Bland, president, Kay Bisette, secretary, Shirley Kool, Irma Duke, and Fletcher Hartsell, members-at-large. Following the receipt of a state grant available for this purpose, Elizabeth Edwards of Whitakers was employed as state director. She was well-qualified by training and experience for the challenge.

Ministry sites at the end of the year 2000, were located in Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte, Alexander County, Gaston County, Cleveland County and Haywood County. Nine other sites had work in process.

The ministry of North Carolina's CWJC expanded to the Convention's partnership with South Africa. GAs, Acteens and Women on Mission

groups raised over \$4,000 to send Bibles to the new CWJC site in Kimberley, South Africa.

Training For Missions

Throughout this history there are references to training opportunities provided the women who served as leaders in the associations and/or churches. Training was a basic task of Woman's Missionary Union from its beginning. Miss Fannie E. S. Heck, the first president, was persistent in getting missions information out to the women and to the churches. Without benefit of technology now available for communication purposes, those early leaders found ways of staying in touch with the women in the churches by handwriting information received from missionaries and making suggestions for their programs.

In the year 2000, more than 600 associational WMU leaders were trained in Associational Leadership Team Training (ALTT) held in four locations across the state. They, in turn, led a conference in their respective associations to train leaders in the local churches. A conservative estimate would suggest another 4,000 women received leadership training in the associations.

The WMU Resource Team consisted of approximately 150 women trained and available to help any church or association. The Resource Team was trained each fall, ready to meet the requests that came to the state office asking for help in all categories of leadership—age-level, prayer leaders, enlistment, and more. Those team members had already proved themselves as leaders in the state. Most also used their expertise serving in other organizations in their churches.

Women's Enrichment Ministries

North Carolina WMU added Women's Enrichment Ministry to the role of the Missions Ministries Consultant, Margaret Harding. Training was offered and assistance given to churches with Women's Ministries.

Project Help

Beginning in 1994, the national WMU social/moral issue had been identified as Project Help, with a different focus each year. For the year 2000, it was Project Help: Violence. Appreciation events were held for law enforcement officers and seminars on violence prevention

were scheduled. Missions fairs in some areas exhibited various programs and resources for dealing with violence. Sometimes the whole church was involved in the effort.

Camp Mundo Vista

This was an ongoing development effort and facilities were used almost year-round. It was not a static work: Cabins continued to be renovated and funds received for furnishing the new Bill and Ruth Jackson building. Plans were underway for a lodge renovation and the building of an infirmary. A staff of approximately fifty young women, mostly college students or recent graduates, served as counselors for hundreds of girls each summer. Special groups, who otherwise would never be able to attend camp, were provided scholarships. GAs and Acteens came for full weeks or weekends. Mother-daughter weekends were held. Many who attended were confronted with the gospel for the first time. Many were won to Christ while others found direction for their lives, developed life-long friendships and prayer partners. Only heaven can give an accurate account of what has been accomplished in this place year after year (see chapter 9).

WMU Development

North Carolina became the first state to have a WMU development director when Edna Walters joined the staff. Women had opportunity to learn how they could continue on mission even after they were gone, through endowments, trusts, and wills. Conferences and consultations were made available as requested in the state. A campaign for NC WMU Development was launched—a dime today for WMU tomorrow—capitalizing on what could be accomplished if every NC WMU member gave just ten cents a day (\$36.50 a year) to NC WMU development. The women would have money for unlimited ministries, training conferences, prayer retreats, interest groups, age-level conventions, and more.

Prison Ministries

Ministry continued at the Women's Correctional Center in Raleigh. Women on Mission also included prison ministries in their ongoing efforts when women were incarcerated in nearby facilities. The entire

state participated in the annual Christmas “Red Boxes,” packing boxes with needed and permitted personal items for women in prison. The boxes were distributed by local groups. Christmas was the only time in the year when those incarcerated were allowed to receive such gifts. Each association selected items to collect and send to the WMU office where “Red Boxes” were packed by volunteers for delivery.

Working through the state Department of Social Services, and Camp Angel Tree, WMU scholarships to spend a week at camp were provided for 61 girls who had a parent in prison. One event allowed the incarcerated mother and a daughter to attend a weekend retreat.

At the end of the millennium Baptist women continued to sponsor a three day retreat for a carefully chosen group of incarcerated women, some of them long-timers. Programming, mentoring and fellowship were directed by the staff, the executive board, and volunteers.

Special Ministries

NC WMU provided networking, training and involvement in all kinds of missions ministries across the state, including:

- Prayer ministries
- Food pantries
- Prison ministries
- Clothes closets
- Personal witnessing training
- Nursing home ministries
- Literacy
- Crisis pregnancy ministries
- English as a second language
- Project Help: Violence
- Habitat for Humanity
- Project Hannah
- Samaritan's Purse
- Mothers and Their Children (MATCH)

- Camp Angel Tree
- Volunteer Connection

Communication Lines

Tarheel Talk was the quarterly newsletter sent to all WMU leadership, containing special missions features, details of meetings, upcoming emphases and much more. Each church was requested to send the names and addresses of each of their WMU leaders to the WMU office. Church secretaries, pastors, directors of missions, and others who requested it also received this publication.

The Branch was the newsletter for ministers' spouses. *The Pulse* was the newsletter for members of Baptist Nursing Fellowship. *The Mission* was the newsletter for ethnic pastors and women's leaders. *Highlights* was the newsletter for donors and special friends of Camp Mundo Vista.

A website, in connection with the Baptist State Convention, was a work in process. The website address is www.bscnc.org/wmu.

Discovering Spiritual Gifts

After years of programs and book studies focused on each person discovering her spiritual gifts, (everyone has at least one gift); after hearing and studying about what our missionaries do on home and foreign fields; after studying and preparing to share personal testimonies on becoming a Christian; and after focusing on stewardship of life and what God expects of His followers; women, men, families and churches were responding to the tug of the Holy Spirit in their lives. He was prompting them to become involved in unique and wonderful ways for sharing the gospel. Partnering through the Baptist State Convention and with Baptist Men in North Carolina, WMU was a vital part of an army of volunteers ready to go anywhere to do anything that would point people to Jesus Christ. When there was an emergency or other needs, God drew out the people to meet the needs, whether in the United States or in other parts of the world.

Staff at 2000 Year End

In connection with the September 2000, executive board meeting, the personnel committee had secured Dr. Katharine Bryan, retired executive-director for WMU of Tennessee, to spend some extended time helping the board look at its present situation, where it was and where it needed to go. She was also asked to lead a retreat for program staff.

Dot Allred, a former president, was asked to lead the board in prayer times at this important juncture in their history, realizing that apart from God they could do nothing.

The personnel committee recommended that Dr. Bryan be called to serve as a consultant and interim executive director. Dr. Bryan had served as the WMU executive director in Tennessee for 12 years.

The staff members serving NC WMU at the end of 2000 were:

Dr. Katharine Bryan, Interim Executive Director
Jan High, Missions Education Consultant
Carolyn Hopkins, Missions Growth Consultant
Cara Lynn Croom, Missions Support Consultant
Margaret Harding, Missions Ministries Consultant
Linda Hicks, WMU Language Coordinator
Edna Walters, Director of Development
Bob Navey, Camp Mundo Vista Resident Manager
Michelle Norman, Project Coordinator/Administrative Assistant
Ramona Whaley, Receptionist-Secretary
Laura Davis, Secretary/Camp Mundo Vista Director
Julie Keith, Acteens Staff Assistant
Bob Wainwright, Camp Mundo Vista Project Manager
Betsy McSwain, Ministers' Spouse Support Coordinator
Pat Liles, Part-time Clerical Support
Judy Branch, Interim Project Coordinator

Numerous volunteers, sometimes working many hours a week, assisted with many special efforts. Each staff person had the support of each other and together, as a team, they accomplished the work.

Baptist State Convention

A cause to celebrate was the special time allocated to WMU for presentation of their work at the Monday night session of the Baptist State Convention in November 2000 at Lawrence Joel Coliseum in Winston-Salem. Ruby Fulbright, president, assisted by Elizabeth Edwards, Melanie Edwards and others, led the memorable presentation. It was a poignant example of how God was using Baptist women to meet the needs of hurting women today—caring, helping, loving—showing Christ's love in word and deed.

North Carolina WMU Statistics For 2000

(from the Annual Church Profiles recorded in Nashville, Tennessee)

Total WMU Enrollment	117,660
Preschool: (Mission Friends)	14,525
Children: (Girls in Action, Children in Action)	19,636
Youth: (Acteens, Youth on Mission)	12,473
Adults: (Women on Mission, Adults on Mission)	60,447
Leadership Team:	10,554

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Dreamers and Weavers

Like a fine piano with many keys needed to produce all the sounds and melodies the master pianist wants to bring out of the fine instrument, an organization like Woman's Missionary Union must have all the right components to provide the Master Teacher with human hands, minds and feet, all rightly gifted, tuned, and available for His purposes. The years have proved it is awesome when each woman finds her place in God's plan for the ages.

The records show that leadership in the organizations, and even in the churches, has come from those who were nurtured and trained in the missions organizations. In talking with many leaders in local churches, from the east to the west, whether they are Sunday School directors and teachers, discipleship leaders, or church staff members, with few exceptions they refer to training they received in the mission organizations. This is where they realized God had a plan for their lives and that they wanted to follow that plan. God continues to do so much more than even the most faithful leaders fully realize.

Executive Directors

In North Carolina the early women leaders gave almost full time to their responsibilities as officers, even though they did not receive pay. As the work grew, they knew there would have to be an employed person to give leadership. Thus, the first executive position came into being in 1947. In this record of the work of the organization, which you are now reading, these leaders have been introduced in the chronological period of their service. Those who have served and are serving as executive director are listed in Appendix 1.

Kathryn Bullard, who served as the first state Woman's Missionary Society director from 1959-1975, reflected on the work of the executive directors from her vantage point as a staff member:

"Each executive director I served with brought distinct leadership: Robinson...spiritual development and programming; Hobbs...broke barriers in a man's world. By working with men in leadership positions, they saw, by her example, that women are smart and can lead in a 'man's world.'"

"Although I did not serve under Curtis, I observed that she led the women to be more actively involved in social issues that made a difference."

"K. B.," as she was affectionately called, also had the experience of working with Mrs. Foy Farmer. She said of her, "Although she was advancing in age, she never lost sight of the future. She was ready to change and support change if it advanced the cause of Christ through missions. To me, she never got older...just wiser!" (Excerpts from September 3, 1996 letter to Dorothy Allred, on file in NC WMU office.)

Staff Members

A strong contingent of age-level specialists have served along with the executive directors. These specialists added an extra dimension to the cause of missions through their collective efforts. Most of these fully trained professionals, who had felt God's call to live out their commitment to missions through WMU, were themselves products of the organizations in diverse churches across North Carolina and in other states.

A complete listing of the staff can be found in Appendix 1.

To many women in North Carolina, the staff members were and are WMU. These are the people up front, planning with the officers and executive board, then returning to their offices and the field to implement and bring to fruition the dreams and goals to be achieved. Apart from a sense of Divine call, they could not have had the top priority of a lifetime centered on their responsibilities in the state WMU organization. "Only God..." could bring all the people together with such a concerted, single purpose.

If the total work of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina could be likened to a giant tapestry, we would see these are the people who have given pattern and encouragement to the thousands of weavers who daily carry out their work in local churches, working endlessly on the underneath side of the ongoing, developing work of the Master Weaver.

In the main body of our text we have covered in some detail the back-

ground and work of those who have served as executive directors for the state WMU organization. Here we will profile only those staff members who served ten years or more, without any intention of minimizing the work of those who served for shorter periods of time. Each person's missions lifestyle impacted those under her leadership.

Kathryn Bullard (1959-1975)

Kathryn Bullard was born in Gibson (Scotland County), North Carolina. She received her education at Mars Hill College and at a Charlotte business school. Prior to coming to the newly created position of WMS Director for WMU of NC, she served on the staff of First Baptist Church, Kannapolis. She served in that church for more than ten years, first as church secretary, then educational director. Under pastor Charles Coffey she was promotional director for the entire church program. She brought her commitment to missions to work in the local church and this was evident from her involvement in visitation and evangelism, in the promotion of local and associational missions, and in the promotion she gave to weeks of prayer and mission offerings. She joined the state WMU staff in September 1959.

With her own creativity, Kathryn was able to develop many ways in which the work in the local churches and associations could be helped and strengthened by the state organization, and she worked diligently at it.

Participation in the World Missions Conferences at Caswell Conference Center was an important part of WMU and Brotherhood, offering missions information, encouragement and inspiration to whole families. Kathryn was an important part of the planning and making the most of this annual opportunity to impact the state for missions. She enlisted program people and handled many of the logistics for a successful missions week for the hundreds of people who included this special week in their plans for the summer. Children and young people made first time commitments to Christ and others made commitments to missions, and to following God's will wherever that might lead. This annual emphasis made a difference for missions in North Carolina.

Kathryn Bullard is remembered by many for her leadership in providing prayer retreats for women. She felt God sent Martha Franks, a South Carolinian and former missionary to China, to retire in Laurens, South Carolina, with easy access to North Carolina. Martha took advantage of every opportunity to share her experiences of how God works in the lives

of women on foreign mission fields, but also every day wherever God has placed them. The state planned retreats were held primarily at Camp Mundo Vista. There Martha used simple illustrations in the outdoor settings, such as rocks picked up from the mountainside. Wherever state staff and leadership would go for the next 30-plus years, they would hear reports of fresh commitments that had been made by women who participated in one of the prayer retreats.

Kathryn Bullard and the WMU staff saw the need for the women to deepen their spiritual lives and the retreats were one powerful way God caused it to happen. Some churches and some associations have had prayer retreats every year since their first experience at Camp Mundo Vista.

Kathryn Bullard was a dreamer for North Carolina women, a dreamer who leaned heavily on the leading of the Holy Spirit and was unrelenting in her all-out efforts to lead where she felt God wanted her to go. She made a difference. She resigned in 1975 to become executive director for WMU of Virginia.

Suthell Walker (1975-1986)

Suthell Walker was a native of Spindale, Rutherford County, North Carolina. She was a graduate of Central High School, Rutherfordton, Gardner Webb College, Boiling Springs, Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee, New Orleans Theological Seminary, and did graduate studies in social work at University of Kentucky.

Suthell served two years as minister of education at her home church in Spindale, 22 years with the Home Mission Board in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Lexington, Kentucky, and eleven years as Baptist Women Director/Consultant for NC WMU. She gave creative leadership in every area of her responsibilities. Her extended service meant she served as coordinator for Christian Service Corps of the Home Mission Board with North Carolina volunteers, held responsibilities in the Raleigh Association WMU, was the director of several missions tours for a variety of groups composed of adult women. She participated in World Missions Conferences, was a writer for WMU, SBC publications and a sought after conference leader by state and national WMU leadership. She led WMU workshops in New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio and West Virginia.

As was true of other staff members, she felt it was important to be a vital part of a local church. She belonged to St. John's Baptist Church

in Raleigh, serving as WMU director, deacon, and as a member of several committees.

In addition to retreats, special conferences and seminars for Baptist Women, she led a major mission action thrust to reach unchurched children called Big A Clubs.

Suthell retired at the end of 1986 and returned to her home in Spindale. She had felt God's call to missions when she was active in YWA and Church Training at Spencer Baptist Church in Spindale. While working for WMU, her office was near the Church Training offices. She and the director of Church Training, Maurice Cooper, talked at length about the five church programs, and especially WMU and Church Training. They discussed reaching out to the associations with a plan to start new work if one or more of these church programs did not exist in a church. They also discussed ways to strengthen the existing work and to introduce leaders to the many resources available to meet their needs. In 1987 the idea was discussed with Robert Stewart, Sunday School director, and Nancy Curtis, WMU executive director.

Arrangements were made for Suthell to spend a week in different associations to hold two hour consultations with the Church Program leaders, helping them discover their needs, promoting teamwork and presenting new approaches to enhance church growth. This ministry, approved by the Baptist State Convention, developed so fast and was so worthwhile that other volunteers, who were trained in WMU, Church Training and Sunday School, were enlisted. The state was divided into areas with a leader for each area and given the name Church Growth Multipliers.

She not only served with Church Growth Multipliers but has served in the Green River Association as Baptist Women director, Women on Mission consultant, Discipleship Training director and a member of the Missions Development Council. Her special interest was senior adults. Her aim was to encourage seniors in assisted living homes to know God was not through with them yet. There were so many ministries they can do "right where they live."

Patsy (Pat) Ritchie Liles (1972-1986; 1996-)

A native of North Carolina she was born into the home of Wade and Pauline Ritchie in New London, North Carolina. Pat grew up in the Prospect Baptist Church in New London where she was involved in Sunbeams, Girls Auxiliary (attaining rank of Queen-Regent-In-Service) and in Young Woman's Auxiliary.

Pat Ritchie received her formal education at Appalachian State University (B.S. in elementary education) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas (Masters in Religious Education).

With her commitment to missions, she responded to the invitation to assist with state WMU camps held at Fruitland Baptist Assembly in the west and Caswell Baptist Assembly in the east. This was before WMU's Camp Mundo Vista came into being.

During years of acquiring her higher education she spent summers with NC WMU, serving as a camp unit leader in 1969, as music and drama director in 1970 and assistant camp director 1971-74.

After teaching in an elementary school for a year she joined the staff of North Carolina WMU as Girls in Action/Missions Friends Director, and directed Camp Mundo Vista in 1976. Her assignment on staff later changed to Mission Friends/Baptist Young Women Director.

In 1978 Pat took a team of camp staffers to Puerto Rico to provide a camp experience for GAs there. Her involvement in missions efforts overseas included: Assisting Virginia Wood, North Carolinian and former WMU president for the European convention, in providing leadership training for the women across Europe. Assisting missionary Patsy Davis in conducting a camp for Missionary Kids in Venezuela while their parents attended the missions conference.

In 1986 Pat joined the staff of WMU, SBC, as Manager of the Training Design Group. In 1988 she led one of the Lottie Moon of China Tours sponsored by WMU, SBC as a part of the 100th anniversary of the national organization.

An unanticipated turn in Pat's life came in 1989 when she experienced a disabling stroke. With great faith, determination and hard work, she returned to the WMU, SBC staff as research assistant in the library.

Pat became Mrs. Barney R. Liles, Jr., in 1993. In 1994 the couple moved to Cary, North Carolina, to be nearer to her aging parents. In 1996, with WMU and missions being so much a part of her life, Pat began working in a part time position in the NC WMU office, assisting with the phones and light secretarial work. As this was written, Pat continued to serve NC WMU in this manner.

As a member of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, she continued to be involved in missions, with the ongoing support of husband Barney. She was an international Sunday School teacher, taught



WMU Staff of 1983: Carolyn Hopkins, Pat Ritchie, Pina Maynard, Jan High, Nancy Curtis, Kay Bisette, Diane Hurlbut, Suthell Walker

English as a second language, and was the Women on Mission coordinator for the church. She also served as the teaching/training consultant for the Raleigh Baptist Association.

Carolyn Hopkins (1976-)

Carolyn Hopkins came to North Carolina in 1976 and has served on the staff in various capacities since that time. She came as Acteens Consultant, and May 1, 1987, she became the Baptist Young Women and Baptist Women Consultant. In March of 1995 she became the Mission Development Consultant (which included the adult age-level organization of Women on Mission). In 1999 she became Missions Growth Consultant with the responsibilities of helping churches look at ways to strengthen the mission education organizations and to help begin new ones.

Her responsibilities have included the coed mission education organizations of WMU. She gave supervision to the work of the Camp Mundo Vista summer camp director and worked with the WMU staff assistant in the area of Acteens and Youth on Missions.

She was born in California and grew up in New Mexico. She gradu-

ated from Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas, and Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Before coming to North Carolina she served for two years with Oklahoma's Woman's Missionary Union.

Ministry is a family affair. Twin sister, Marilyn, is the Missions Ministry Director and Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director for the state of Michigan. A younger sister is a minister's wife in Texas, and has two grown children.

Her long time commitment to missions education through Woman's Missionary Union could be seen through her dedication and zeal for the tasks which were her responsibility at any given time.

When the doors of opportunity to minister in the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women began to open up (first, to WMU staff members), among the first to respond was Carolyn. She felt if she was involved it would help her to do a better job of enlisting, training and encouraging women in the churches.

Carolyn provided the following story, not using the subject's real name:

"The more I knew about 'Sandra,' talked and visited with her, the more I wanted to do all that I could to help her find hope and direction for her life. How could I do this?

"After I was recognized by the penal authorities as someone who could be trusted with some time with this specific inmate, we began to do a number of different things. Always with permission, I took her to dinner, took her to church with me and we sometimes went to a shopping mall. All of these were freedoms that Sandra had not had for a very long time.

"Sandra was already a Christian when she made some bad decisions and did some bad things which had resulted in her incarceration. In the weeks and months that followed the initial meeting, Sandra sought forgiveness and received it. Although skeptical of people for a while, little by little she began to let go and let God do His work in her life.

"The years have passed. Sandra is serving her second term as a deacon in her Baptist church, sharing the Christ-like love that had given her hope."

This is just one example of a WMU woman (representing staff members and many WMU members throughout the state) who had enough compassion and Christ-like love to embrace and pick up a woman who had fallen.

One of Carolyn's longtime responsibilities was to serve as liaison between WMU of NC and missionaries on the field, as well as furloughing missionaries. She was a link between MKs (Missionary Kids) in this country while their parents were serving in some other country. She planned and led retreats for MKs on holidays from school when others had homes to go to but the MKs' homes were too far away. Carolyn found these young people had so much in common no matter how different the places they had lived; they enjoyed and needed each other.

Carolyn's hobbies include golf, biking, and wood working. Her ongoing love for the Southwest was evidenced by the southwestern ornaments she made for her Christmas tree.

Jan High (1983-)

Jan (Everett) High was born in Clovis, New Mexico, graduated from Muleshoe High School, Texas, attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, graduated from Texas Tech University with a major in elementary education and a minor in music; graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville KY, with a Masters of Religious Education degree and attended Towson State University in Baltimore, Maryland for courses in early childhood education.

Before coming to North Carolina she worked with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, with Girls in Action, Missions Friends, and Camp Director; and with Maryland Woman's Missionary Union, with Acteens, Girls in Action, Mission Friends and Camp Director.

Jan High came to the staff of Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina as Girls in Action Consultant and served in that capacity 1983-1986. From 1986-1995 she served as WMU Consultant, and from 1995 to the present as Missions Education Consultant.

Recognized as a capable leader with many original and creative ideas for reaching goals, she served with WMU, SBC as Missions Friends chairman, Girls in Action chairman, general chairman and general administration chairman from time to time, and as Training Task Force chairman in 1997.

She felt she should not ask others to carry out plans in the association and local church that she was not willing to carry out in her set-

ting. She led age-level organizations in the local church and gave leadership in the Raleigh association. Jan knew the importance of those organizations because she had grown up in Sunbeams, Girls Auxiliary (attained Queen Regent in Service), and Young Woman's Auxiliary (attained State Citation).

As a WMU participant she served with Baptist State Convention partnerships, including the New York Partnership and the Brazil Partnership. She excelled in organizational and planning skills and in structuring and leading conferences.

Jan High's fine leadership skills were used through WMU to provide the wide network of training leadership that exists in the churches of North Carolina today. The yearly planning and securing of quality personnel, who are on the cutting edge of leadership trends and skills to assist with conferences, and giving unity to accomplish goals for the associations and churches has developed leadership that cannot likely be found anywhere else. There is no pride in this except for the larger picture of what God makes possible when His people are available to Him and are prepared for the tasks at hand.

A Resource Team of 122 people has been trained in their areas of expertise, and updated each fall as they meet for two days of training, usually at Caraway Conference Center or Mundo Vista. These are people who have excelled in their own churches and associations and are available to respond to invitations from any church or association. These people conduct training sessions, teach mission books, speak for celebration meetings, rallies, church missions emphases for Sunday services, and more.

These people are also called on by other states that do not have this kind of almost unlimited leadership pool. The enlistment of team members, and the planning and implementing of training, was under Jan's direction.

Jan does find time to pursue her ongoing interest in music, puzzles, hiking, yard work and classic movies.

Marcia J. McQueen (1986-1995)

Marcia Jayne McQueen is a native of Rockingham and the daughter of a Baptist minister. Always active in the local church, she continued her education at Campbell University where she received a degree in early childhood education, and at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where she received a degree in religious education.

From June 1979 to June 1981 Marcia served as a Journeyman with the Foreign Mission Board in Panama. She also served as Mission Friends leader in First Baptist Church, Balboa, Panama. For the summer of 1983 she served as missionary in residence at Camp Mundo Vista. In the summer of 1985 she was traveling camp director (holding camps in several associations) and leading a variety of training events and day camps for NC WMU.

In October 1986, Marcia McQueen joined the state WMU staff as Mission Friends/Girls in Action Consultant. In that capacity she planned, secured personnel, wrote materials, and conducted statewide activities for Mission Friends and Girls in Action leaders and for GA members. She was the staff contact with leaders of those organizations in the local churches and associations and spoke for such special emphases as WMU Focus Week and mother-daughter events. She conducted on-site consultations with leaders throughout the state.

Marcia wrote for and edited *Tarheel Talk*, the quarterly publication of the state WMU, wrote curriculum materials for national WMU magazines *Start* and *Aware*; wrote the 1992 Preschool Foreign Mission studies for preschoolers and children, and assisted the camp director in planning, programming and implementing summer camp at Mundo Vista.

In keeping with WMU's cooperation with other state convention programs she led and taught in conferences for leadership for Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

People throughout the state benefited from her wisdom and creativity as she shared the best and most effective ways for working with preschoolers and young children.

As Marcia McQueen continued to follow God's leading she entered the North Carolina Baptist Hospitals' clinical pastoral education program (1995-1996). In 1998, she received training from the American Academy of Bereavement, and became a "Nationally Certified Bereavement Facilitator."

Ordained by Woodhaven Baptist Church, Apex, Marcia was endorsed to the healthcare chaplaincy April 16, 1996, by the Home Mission Board, SBC, Atlanta, Georgia. She served as chaplain/bereavement coordinator for Hospice of Rockingham County, Wentworth, NC, February 1997 to December 2000. She left to become director of chaplaincy services, Morehead Memorial Hospital, Eden.

Leland Bingham (1978-1992)

Leland Bingham was employed as the resident manager for Camp Mundo Vista in 1978 and was the first to occupy the new residence built on the grounds for the resident manager.

A Corbin, Kentucky native, Leland joined the United States Air Force at nineteen years of age, and served three years in Germany and England. Graduating from Corbin High School, he also graduated from Cumberland Jr. College and Union College. In 1963 he married a North Carolinian, Pat Peeks.

Following his college years he worked three years with the Internal Revenue Service and also in construction work. In 1964 he became a vocational school teacher in northern Kentucky. In 1969 he decided to leave the farm and moved to North Carolina to work with the community college system. Since he and Pat were committed to staying in God's will for their lives, this led to his enrollment at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He graduated in 1980.

While still studying at the seminary he began working at Mundo Vista. He was responsible for every aspect of the camp's daily operation, except for regular programming. He also had full responsibility for scheduling and meeting the needs of off-season events by various groups, readying facilities and providing food services. Much depended on the work this family did. Pat's knowledge of nursing brought reassurance to her own family and to guests on the campus. Pat provided care and referral whenever it was needed. Her services could never have been compensated for adequately. She just gave and gave.

The Bingham's already had Heather in their family when they came to Mundo Vista. In 1979 another daughter, Elizabeth, was also adopted. The family attended First Baptist Church, Asheboro and worked with Cedar Grove Mission.

The Bingham family was involved in missions on a daily basis. Additional opportunities continued to come as Leland went to Chile as a missions volunteer. He returned a second time to assist with Baptist mission efforts there.

In North America the Bingham's worked with the North Carolina Disaster Ministry in a number of settings, including Columbus, Ohio. After Leland's early retirement both he and Pat continued to respond to specific overseas missions needs. Two mission trips took the Bingham's to Mexico in an area near Guadalupe. A building was remodeled to provide room for a deaf congregation to meet. They

conducted backyard Bible studies in several apartment areas. Leland assisted with the painting of Grace Church in Guadalupe. One of the backyard Bible studies led to the planting of a new church. Daughter, Heather, was a two year Journeyman to Mexico. Because of an ongoing interest in an orphanage for babies in Mexico the Bingham's are considering returning to that ministry for a two year period.

Support Staff

The corporate world has long known that many of their successes, although not always acknowledged, could be traced to the faithfulness of secretaries, clerks, assistants and associates whose names never appeared in newspaper headlines. This is true in the office of an organization like Woman's Missionary Union. As Kay Bisette, administrative assistant, said to Dot Allred when she went to the office to serve in an interim capacity in 1993, "My job is to make you look good. You just tell me how to do that."

This kind of cooperative spirit was evidenced by the various members of the support staff across the years. All of these cannot be named, but two with long tenure who worked so closely with their executive directors were Pina Powell Maynard and Kay Bisette, secretary/administrative assistants. Also, with lengthy tenure were Violet Matthews, secretary, and Belle Wilson, receptionist.

Violet, the one with the quiet voice and personality, more often than not worked in the back office. She was responsible for getting out the WMU mailings to the women, churches and associations. She was the one who took orders by telephone for materials requested by local leaders. She then filled those orders as quickly as possible, sending special offering envelopes, teaching materials, maps, and more.

Belle Wilson was the woman with the warm, resonant voice who answered the telephone, directing the caller to the person or persons they needed. She was also a missions encyclopedia, providing answers to every kind of question related to the missions programs, and missions in general. She was the woman with the answers who made you feel good about calling the office to have your needs met. She was also the very effective greeter who sat near the Fannie E. S. Heck portrait, and by her presence and manner tied together the past and the present.

Helping to meticulously keep records were Vivian Nowell, Sandra Arcot, Diane Hurlbut and Cheryl Cruickshank. These were all focused on accountability and contributed in many different ways.

Vivian Nowel served 22 years as a missionary in Africa, under the Foreign Mission Board. Then she worked until retirement with WMU of NC. She had attended Meredith College, NC and Carver School of Missions in Louisville, KY. WMU remembered Vivian as one of their own missionaries for whom they provided a station wagon to help with her work in Africa. From her home community and church in Wendell, she lived out her life in missions, whatever her assignment might be. She made a difference.

Diane Hurlbut was alert to changing interest rates and how they could affect WMU finances. She pointed out any monies not currently in use could draw interest if placed in the proper account. Even small deposits for camp registrations, conference fees, and the like, were deposited to earn interest. Diligence in handling even small amounts of money, almost daily at times, provided some income that otherwise would not have been available. These funds were used to meet additional ministry needs. Careful money management enabled North Carolina WMU to assist WMUs in sister states where their organization had become a part of their state convention. As convention leadership changed in some states, funding for WMU was drastically reduced or deleted. North Carolina WMU, and some other states, trimmed their programs. They used the extra monies to help retain the position of WMU executive, giving the director time to develop support from women in her own state.

Cheryl Cruickshank quietly gained the confidence of the executive board. She was smart, knowledgeable and skilled in her area of responsibility. With great integrity she handled the necessary records for all financial matters, carrying out directions of the executive director and executive board. She often suggested better ways of doing specific things related to finances. Her responsibilities increased steadily with the handling of registrations for the many weeks of camps, special conventions and weekend events. After her resignation from WMU, Cheryl became the treasurer for the state Christian Women's Job Corps.

Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Pina Powell Maynard (Mrs. Robert) served under three executive directors, Miriam Robinson, Sara Ann Hobbs and Nancy Curtis. With her quiet spirit she was able to strengthen the arm of the executives in so many ways and she was relied on heavily by each. She was high-

ly skilled and knowledgeable and lived out her personal commitment to missions through WMU. Pina was a ready source of help for other staff members, relieving the executive of many detail matters. After retirement she served on the nominating committee and on several committees, including the history committee.

Kay Bissette, (Mrs. David) a graduate of Campbell University and Southeastern Seminary, felt her calling was to be in a support capacity, using secretarial and management skills to strengthen the total effort. With the arrival of computers and new technology she worked at discovering new possibilities for their use by WMU. She became proficient using the computer, designing computer programs for keeping WMU records, and designing creative promotional materials. Her value to executive directors Nancy Curtis and Irma Duke was immeasurable.

In 1988, the Foreign Mission Board asked the Baptist State Convention to participate in a Pilot Project for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Kay Bissette, WMU administrative assistant, and Lynn Tharrington, Baptist Men administrative assistant, gave leadership to this project. It involved contacting every church and mailing more than 14,000 personalized letters to pastors and lay leaders across the state. Much was learned about the promotion of the offering and the week of prayer from this project. Kay remembers this as a significant accomplishment during her tenure. Following her resignation, she was asked to serve on the history committee.

Among other things, the annual minutes prepared by the elected secretary and assistant secretary, were included in a publication distributed after the annual meeting each year. This publication not only reported on actions taken but included a listing of current officers and personnel, dates, recognitions and other valuable information. This annual publication was distributed to WMU leadership throughout North Carolina, providing information not available in any other one place. The administrative assistants worked closely with the officers and executive director to compile this annual publication, called *The Minute Book*.

Titles and responsibilities for all staff members changed many times during the years, depending on identified needs at the time.

It needs to be said that all other personnel served with the same sense of call to missions, even if they worked for shorter periods of time. Without exception, each contributed much to the total work as

they brought with them their love and commitment to missions, their training and expertise in the areas in which they worked, and their unique spiritual gifts and talents.

See listing of the support staff in Appendix 1.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

They Celebrate Missions: W.M.U. and the Baptist State Convention

The book *Hitherto*, by Foy Johnson Farmer, provided helpful information about the relationship of the women's organization and the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

In the beginning the Central Committee was appointed by the State Board of Missions, which in turn was appointed by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. The Central Committee was thus a Committee of the Convention, and as such reported to it (*Hitherto*, p. 11).

In 1906 this was changed, and in accord with its auxiliary relationship the Union elected the members of its Executive Committee. It was noted: "All these ladies serve without compensation, the only expense of the Committee being for postage, printing, and stationery."

In a later reference in *Hitherto* (p. 56), Mrs. Farmer referred to the continuing relationship to the Baptist State Convention. "The relationship of the Union and the Baptist State Convention to which it is auxiliary has been pleasant and profitable. The secretaries, John E. Ray, Columbus Durham, John F. White, Livingston Johnson, Walt N. Johnson, Charles E. Maddrey and M. A. Huggins have all heartily cooperated with the officers. They have added to the richness of annual meeting programs with stirring messages; they have always given cheerfully their counsel and encouragement."

In her book, *North Carolina Baptists Working Together*, Susan Ray included the following information related to Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Women began praying and raising money for missions as soon as there were missionaries to support. ... Women of some other denomi-

nations had set up their own boards to appoint and support their own missionary force. Southern Baptist women wanted to be helpers—'auxiliary' to the Convention's foreign and home mission work. It must be added that leaders of the two mission boards and other mission-minded men gave their support to the women and sought the help of the women in many activities.... In 1959—The Southern Baptist Convention officially recognized Woman's Missionary Union as an auxiliary, signaling a closer relationship between WMU and the denomination at all levels."

Each of North Carolina's state convention's executive secretary-treasurers/executive director treasurers continued to encourage, support and rely on the women for their efforts in training children, giving prayer support, promoting stewardship, and teaching missions. Following Dr. M. A. Huggins in 1959 were Dr. Douglas Branch, Dr. W. Perry Crouch, Dr. Cecil A. Ray, Dr. Roy J. Smith and Dr. James Royston.

The executive director, president, and officers of North Carolina WMU had discussed the desire to affirm the ongoing relationship with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. This relationship each executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention and WMU officers and leaders had through the years was often considered a model by other states. The mutual concern for missions, the purposes of the local church, association and state convention, were all blended in the goals and purposes of Woman's Missionary Union and the Baptist State Convention.

Each entity gave strength to the other. There was great freedom to propose new ideas, work through them together, and carry out those worthy of support. There was little concern for who got the credit. Personnel from both groups contributed to planning—both short range and long range, the setting of goals, and the implementation of those goals for a common purpose. Each group respected the contribution of the other. The Baptist State Convention never mandated specific actions. The relationship worked like it was supposed to work with an organization that wanted to help the cause of missions and was allowed to do so.

In the fall of 1995, and again in 1996, under the direction of Jan High, staff consultant, and Wendy Case, WMU chairman, a "See the Baptist Building Day" was held. Members of associational WMU councils and directors of missions were invited to spend the day at the

Baptist Building in Cary to become better acquainted with the state WMU office, and also the total operation of the Baptist State Convention. Many convention staff members participated. This appeared to be a helpful effort. For many WMU members it was their first time to visit the state convention offices and to learn how the money given in the local church made the combined effort of the state convention possible.

In the April 26, 1997, *Biblical Recorder*, Dr. Smith in his "As I See It" column, reported on his attendance at two outstanding Baptist conventions dedicated to learning about and celebrating missions. He said, "I wish every North Carolina Baptist could attend these meetings each year. Our state convention would indeed be stronger."

The two conventions in 1997 were the North Carolina Baptist Men's Convention held January 31-February 2, at First Baptist Church, Greensboro, and the North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union Convention held at Ridgecrest, March 21-23. Smith wrote: "They know how to do it right...Both groups come with a single agenda—missions—and stay focused throughout the entire meeting."

He also noted, "The vast majority of the people stayed for the entire meeting. Both meetings begin on Friday night, with Baptist Men ending Saturday evening and WMU concluding with a worship service on Sunday morning...People did not just attend certain sessions...those featuring well known speakers or the business sessions or the election of officers...Very few were 'outstanding' in other places. At the WMU meeting exhibit areas were closed during the sessions."

Dr. Smith observed at both conventions "the sessions could be characterized by an atmosphere of worship and celebration."

"I came away from the Baptist Men and WMU meetings encouraged about our future work together as a state denomination. As I see it, those two groups will help us stay focused on missions if we will let them. I hope we will follow their leadership."

Donice Harrod and Irma Duke, along with state WMU officers and board members, discussed for some time the possibility of having a Mutual Covenant with the Baptist State Convention. The matter was discussed with Dr. Roy J. Smith, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, and other convention leadership. The drafted document reflected the relationship which already existed. It was amended and adjusted to be in keeping with the understanding of WMU and the Baptist State Convention, with some final changes

made for necessary legal phrasing requested by the Convention.

The Mutual Covenant was approved by the WMU Executive Board on Saturday, May 3, 1997, and by the Executive Board of the Baptist State Convention on May 19, 1997. (See Appendix 2.)

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

By His Power: Infinitely More

By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

Local churches and their missions organizations have provided a springboard for the involvement of every Christian in carrying out the Great Commission. The importance of being a volunteer has taken on unlimited dimensions, just as Jesus tried to teach His disciples.

Only eternity will tell the significance of the work done by volunteers and the myriad of talented skills they bring to missions.

One dictionary says to volunteer is to offer one's self for or into any service or undertaking on the basis of free will. The Bible makes it clear that a voluntary, free will response is the only way God desires one to worship, serve, or relate to Him.

Each individual must freely choose, or volunteer, to receive Christ in his life. The lifestyle of the Christian is to be one of voluntarily choosing to do the will of the Father. It is an ongoing, continuous growing relationship.

Jesus in essence was a volunteer. He possessed a will of His own, but Jesus determined to do the will of the Father, even when it meant the cross. Therefore, the attitude of the Christian should be that of Paul, "What would you have me to do, Lord?" Those who studied the progress of missions in the *Bible*, and grasped God's expectations of them as individuals, began to recognize a missions lifestyle was not restricted to what was done inside the walls of their homes and churches.

In the very mobile twentieth century, Christians realized they could go out to work and engage in many varied mission efforts. They could

travel beyond their places of residence to the uttermost part of the earth. The ministry of no two Christians would be exactly the same. In biblical studies, and through preached messages, emphasis had been placed on helping Christians identify their spiritual gifts and talents. How every Christian would minister would relate directly to the empowering of the Holy Spirit. The question for more and more Christians was not "should he or she be a volunteer in missions," but "where, how, and to whom?"

Career missionaries, under appointment by a sponsoring mission board, continue to be an essential part of reaching a lost world for Christ. They provide an anchor and spend lifetimes preparing the way, establishing relationships that make the expanded volunteer programs possible, and so successful. Volunteerism only gives an extra hand to help full time missionaries strengthen the ongoing work.

In this history we identify only a few who have volunteered for short-term ministry in response to God's call. Usually they went at their own expense, to work in an association, or on a North American or international mission field. The testimony of any one of these hundreds of volunteers is a story about how he or she experienced God's call and was empowered to do what God called him or her to do. Some stories of volunteerism have already been recorded in this history.

Bill and Lena Mitchiner

What appeared to be an ordinary couple, living ordinary lives, in an ordinary North Carolina town, with God's power at work in them, became anything but ordinary. Bill and Lena Mitchiner became stellar examples of what God can do when people make themselves available to Him.

Bill held the franchise for an auto parts store in Oxford, North Carolina and Lena was a public school teacher. Long time members of First Baptist Church in that town, they were active in the life of the church in many ways. Specifically, Bill was involved in work with the Baptist Brotherhood (North Carolina Baptist Men) and Lena with Woman's Missionary Union. She served in the state organization as stewardship chairman.

They realized for some time that since God had not given them children He must have something else in mind for their lives. One Sunday morning their pastor preached on the need for every Christian to be on mission. God led them to make a commitment to go and do whatever

God called on them to do. They made themselves available to Him.

The Mitchiners had always enjoyed hearing and talking with missionaries. From them they gained some understanding of what life was like for those serving as missionaries in many different countries and cultures of the world. They realized what it would mean for church members to get a better understanding of the world and its needs. Then more people could pray for the work of the missionaries, there would be commitments from others to go serve in unexpected places, and financial support would be greater for those who did go. The Mitchiners began to see their calling was to help inform church members about missionaries and the mission field.

Beginning in the mid-1950's, and continuing for 22 years, the couple logged over 600,000 miles in travels viewing mission work overseas and home mission ministries in the United States. On each foreign mission field Lena would secure a typical dress of the country to bring home with her.

To accomplish what they dreamed of doing, the couple made themselves available to the churches in North Carolina. They would come and speak about the missionaries on the field, their experiences with the people and the kinds of needs they saw. This enabled church members to pray more effectively and consider what God wanted them to do about missions. Increased financial support for missions was another result.

The Mitchiners were in a different church almost every week. The story of missions was shared in personal testimony, by slides, and tapes of music. Lena had the unusual ability to call the name of each young person in the churches who volunteered to wear the national dress of the countries being described. No matter if there were fifteen dresses to be worn in a church, she was able to introduce each girl or boy by name as she presented them to the audience. Those young people have never forgotten this.

The Mitchiners did all their travel at their own expense and didn't even accept an honorarium from the churches where they spoke. This meant they could go to little churches as well as large ones without any expense to the church. It was their way of responding to the Great Commission. Their presentations on stateside were unforgettable and only heaven can fully reflect the impact of these two missions volunteers.

Before any overseas travel, the Mitchiners always talked with the

then Foreign Mission Board and the area secretaries, who in turn alerted the missionaries of the schedule of the Mitchiners. Bill had earlier served as a member of the Home Mission Board and Lena on the Foreign Mission Board.

On a trip in 1977 the couple made stops in Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Upper Volta and Senegal. Bill reported, "The work has no limits, it seems, in Kenya. Where the gospel is preached, they have a revival." Lena added, "One of the strong points is the national is being trained to be a leader now" (*Biblical Recorder*, April 16, 1977).

This couple provided a good livelihood for themselves, but they were not wealthy. They had to discipline themselves to have enough money to make each trip. When either was away from the other for missions or business meetings, they would not even treat themselves to a call back home. They realized foregoing the telephone call meant more money for missions travel.

In like fashion, when they traveled in the United States they seldom stopped at restaurants for meals. Rather, they took along a folding hibachi which could be fueled with balls of news paper, and stopped at rest stops or picnic tables along the highway to cook their hamburger or prepare other food. The savings freed more money for missions travel.

Alma (Suzi) Helton

"Be careful how you pray because God might answer and your life will be changed forever." These were the words of Suzi Helton of Hickory.

A sharecropper's daughter, she had grown up in a family of twelve children. They were very poor. She didn't get to go to church until she was a teenager and a church bus came by their house. Her mother said the children could go if it didn't cost more than ten cents a trip. The bus was free! She became a Christian at age sixteen.

After World War II she met and married a handsome young soldier. Church became a focus of their family life. They had five children and adopted two others. Life was good.

After surviving a serious illness, Suzi felt God had some special purpose for her life. Through WMU she had learned about missions and the importance of prayer. She began to pray, asking God to show her what He wanted her to do because she thought she really didn't know how to do anything.

Suzie had read in the *Biblical Recorder* that workers were needed in Honduras. So she called Jim Marchman, a volunteer working with the Brotherhood's volunteer ministries. She told him to call her husband. Instead of her husband being asked to go, Suzie was asked. A cook was needed. Suzi said she couldn't possibly go. Her husband said, "Sure you can. I will be housewife and mother while you are gone."

Her husband continued to feel God also wanted him to be a part of what was happening in missions. Shortly after the Honduras trip, both responded to a call for help in Guadeloupe. That was only the beginning. They went to Costa Rica, to Guadeloupe multiple times, to Spain, and to Alaska. Suzi's husband went with her when she went back to Honduras. She said, "We always left a part of our hearts in the places wherever we went."

The calls continued to come. Suzi's husband became very tired and told her she must go for the whole family. Then she heard there was a need for child care workers. Surely, being a mother of seven, that was something she could do.

She began to take teams for a week, sometimes a month, to work wherever they were needed. She felt so blessed. She said, "It would take volumes to tell about the wonderful children we worked with. The fun times. Climbing the Great Wall of China, helping break down the Berlin wall, riding a dog sled with my children in Alaska."

Although assured she was doing what she was supposed to do, and with insistence from her husband, the family was not spared difficulties. Her husband developed cancer. Hurricane Hugo came through Hickory and they experienced great losses not covered by insurance. "I sold my dinner ring. We sold our cows. Whatever it took, that is what we did. One time we sold three cows and came home to find we had four baby calves.

"My kids said we got more than we gave!"

The husband's health continued to worsen. He still insisted that Suzie go on the mission trips—for the whole family. One daughter, a nurse, gave him special attention until he died.

Their youngest son graduated from North Carolina State University two weeks after his father's death. Again, Suzie, almost in desperation, wondered, "What am I to do?" A trip to Mexico was already planned. Her ticket was already purchased. Midst her indecision she said she could almost hear her husband saying, "You've got to go for all of us."

Realizing she had traveled almost around the world she knew the God who was calling her to go would take care of her just as He had promised 21 years earlier.

Mary Webb Rowe

Mary Rowe believes she is a woman who has had "two fabulous lives." She admits there have been many times when this was beyond her imagination. After 35 years in the role of a wife and mother of three children, her world was turned upside down as she found herself facing an unwanted divorce. Mary's Sunday School teacher, a WMU leader, showed concern for Mary and encouraged her to claim God's promises. She claimed God's promise in Psalm 40 and Psalm 55:12-23.

Mary was asked to work at Camp Mundo Vista for four summers, with multiple assignments. There she was drawn to Baptist missionaries who came to teach and speak to the campers. She became increasingly interested in their ministries. She was asked if she would like to go to Panama to help the women develop skills in making crafts which could then be sold. Without any reason not to go, she jumped at the chance. It would give her opportunity to be with other Christian women and missionaries. That was the beginning of her volunteer mission work.

Mary had thought there was nothing productive that she could do. But she found God was continuing to open doors and show her what her capabilities really were.

The words of a poem (author unknown), helped her to thank God for the life He was giving her:

You really learn that you can endure
That you really are strong
And you really do have worth.
And you learn
And learn
And you learn
With every goodbye you learn.

Over the twenty years she has spent time in at least a dozen countries, visiting several of them as many as four times, for a total of 21 trips. Her role varied from cooking for teams of missionaries and volunteers who were building churches and seminary dormitories, to teaching sewing and crafts to women in third world countries, and

teaching the Bible and crafts to children. Trips lasted from one week to as long as a month.

Mary's favorite trip was to Botswana, Africa, where she spent a month cooking for a team of missionaries there to build the first church in the area. In an account given in the *Mount Airy News*, August 13, 2000, she said:

"Up until that time church had been held under a Banyan tree, or anywhere they could find some shade and shelter...I enjoyed it because we were in the "wilds" of Africa. There were a few old hotels, built by the English, still there, where people would have afternoon tea. But most of the people around us were living in mud huts. Many people go to South Africa and say they have seen Africa, but they don't really know what Africa is until they go north, into the poor countries."

Mary was deeply impressed by the Polish people. She cherished memories of the month spent in Poland. Her responsibilities were to cook for a volunteer missions team while they built a seminary dormitory where pastors and church leaders could stay when they came to study. She said she found the Polish people to be enterprising and thrifty. What had been done to rebuild the country after it was totally destroyed in World War II was a credit to the Polish people.

Her plans for future volunteer mission trips? Mary has no planned trips now but is still available for whatever door God opens where her particular gifts and skills are needed. She continues to praise the God who blessed her with a good life and then gave her the second blessing of another fabulous life as a volunteer missionary.

Clarence and Wanda Collier

On a snowy January 1, 1989, a Baptist couple from Eastern North Carolina arrived in the cold state of Montana as mission volunteers under the (then) Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Clarence and Wanda Collier had sold their house, packed their belongings, loaded them in a U-haul truck, and pulled their car behind them. When they passed through Nashville, Tennessee, and visited with a niece, the niece asked, "When are you two going to grow up?" As viewed by some family and friends, it was a rash move.

How could this be? Clarence worked for the telephone company and Wanda taught piano. The children were grown and settled. Living in Laurinburg for twenty years and then in Wilmington, they had been active in the local Baptist churches. In Woman's Missionary Union and

Baptist Men they had read about the need for volunteers in states where Southern Baptist work was new and where churches were being planted. Reports of the new work in WMU's *Royal Service* magazine caught their attention. Wanda attended state leadership conferences, WMU annual meetings, mission action workshops, and prayer retreats.

When Clarence's company wanted to transfer him to another city in North Carolina, they decided it was time to carefully consider what God might want them to do at that point in their lives. Because they were both informed through the mission organizations about the needs, the Holy Spirit had continually brought to mind that God just might want them to do volunteer mission work somewhere.

Wanda considered Sara Ann Hobbs and Nancy Curtis her mentors. The Colliers had traveled with their children on a mission trip to Montana in 1961, but when they decided to fill out an application with the Home Mission Board they did not limit their assignment to any one place, saying, "wherever we are needed." The assignment in God's plan of things was in Montana. Montana was to be home for the next eleven years.

In their assignment as state directors for Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood their job was to visit the churches. When they began work there were 83 churches in the state. When they left there were 140. The work was growing and they stayed busy visiting to help organize the new churches for missions, starting WMU organizations for women and children, and Brotherhood organizations for men and boys.

Virginia Lambert Wood

Virginia Wood was a product of the Piedmont area of North Carolina, growing up with caring, loving Christian parents. Her earliest memory of participating in an event in the church was at age four when she sang "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam." She knew then Jesus did love her because the Bible told her so. At age eleven she made her profession of faith in Christ. Her growing up years were spent in First Baptist Church, Asheboro.

Early in her Christian experience she became aware of a larger world out there and from Sunbeam days forward she began to be aware of the Great Commission and its claim on her life. There was an ongoing awareness, although not fully understood, that she might be a part of that larger world. God's plan was being worked out all along.

After high school she enrolled at Meredith College and a larger area

of Christian service opened to her. During the summer months she worked with one of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention teams in the mountains of western North Carolina, under the auspices of the Sunday School department. It was there she participated in “missions one on one.” She felt real joy in her heart as God was able to use her talents, though small and undeveloped, to glorify Him.

God had a nice surprise for Virginia when He brought into her life a young seminary student from Southern Seminary in Louisville. The commitment of Harry D. Wood, Jr., from Raleigh, to serve the Lord wherever He might lead touched her heart and soul. They were married in June, 1940, and began work with the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Living in Montgomery, they were happy to get to know and sit under the preaching of Dr. Herschel Hobbs.

God opened yet another door for the Woods which brought them back to North Carolina. Harry was called as pastor of Angier Baptist Church in Angier, NC, where numerous opportunities for service came. Mrs. Mable Claire Maddrey, active in the work of Woman’s Missionary Union in the state, became Virginia’s mentor. She encouraged her greater involvement in the WMU in the association. Many doors opened and the love for all facets of missions continued to grow in her heart.

In 1949 Harry Wood became pastor of First Baptist Church, Leaksville, (now Eden) North Carolina. Virginia focused on reaching the young adult women in the church and association. These women were rearing their families and some were also entering a variety of professional and career fields. Through Bible studies, mission programs and personal efforts a strong contingent of outstanding women in that area of the state was developed.

The church reflected this growing, vibrant emphasis on missions.

Virginia served five years as stewardship chairman for North Carolina WMU, sharing biblical mandates and living out the larger meaning of stewardship in her own life as she led conferences for leadership and as she often spoke in the churches.

Responding out of their own commitment to missions, the Woods took their first real mission venture outside the state in 1959. Some of their missionary friends invited and encouraged them to visit their fields of service where Harry could preach and Virginia could share her wonderful musical talents and work with the children. This effort to witness to people in different cultures took them to Brazil, Chile, Peru and other countries.

Virginia said, "My joy was boundless." God blessed their efforts and when they came home they went everywhere they were given opportunity to share what God was doing in those countries. Harry was equally committed to telling the need for more missionaries to share the love of the Lord with so many who had never heard.

God was full of surprises for the Woods. When he took early retirement at age 62, Harry was called to be pastor of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Their work there afforded opportunities they could never have imagined. The European Baptist Convention was, and is, made up of English speaking Baptist churches in some thirty countries in Europe.

The Woods had gone to Europe to stay possibly two years. They stayed ten. Harry was elected president of the European Baptist Convention and Virginia was elected president of the WMU of the European Convention. They led conferences, Bible studies, preached and witnessed all over Europe, even to some who lived behind the Iron Curtain.

Virginia said, "Our Lord led us, watched over us and provided for our needs in ways too wonderful to try to explain. We grew in faith, in wisdom and in love. He blessed our efforts and we praised His Holy Name."

Harry died in 1992 and Virginia returned to the home given them by the First Baptist Church of Eden, a church community they had served for 27 years. God had blessed their home with a son and a daughter, and grandchildren who now were not far away. What is she doing? The same thing she has tried to do ever since she realized God has purpose for every life, no matter the changing circumstances. She teaches, speaks, witnesses and with great joy continues to give God the glory for all that is done.

Juanita and Charles Meares

It was through involvement in a Baptist Women's organization that Juanita Meares learned for the first time what the verses in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8 really meant. "Through a program in *Royal Service* on 'Voluntary Missions' I understood the message of the scriptures to say 'Go' and make disciples—a direct command. It was not an option to go if I felt like it, or do if I wanted to. He said 'Go,'" recalled Juanita. "Then, through studying the book *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby, God impressed upon me to...come...join Him...in His work."

Living with a very enthusiastic WMU wife, Charles soon responded to God's call to join her in volunteer missions. She was a housewife and dental assistant. He was the superintendent for a state correctional center.

The whole family, including their two daughters, Lisa and Wanda, and six other people, took their first mission trip in June, 1980. They worked in an inner city setting in Indiana leading backyard Bible clubs and working with many boys and girls. It was easy since they had done that at home. But living there was different, it meant sleeping in a church basement on fold up cots, taking showers with an outside hose in bathing suits, and cooking in 103 degree weather. For ten days they learned how to live and appreciate the convenience of home, and how to be pleasant no matter the circumstances. It was a growth experience for all of them. Other trips followed:

1981: West Virginia—pioneer missions with Backyard Bible Clubs for boys and girls during the day and revival services at night.

1982: Pennsylvania—provided basic leadership training for Sunday School, missions, music, and lifestyle evangelism in a small church.

1983: New York—in a mission church, Vacation Bible School, odd jobs.

1986: Ohio—led VBS training conferences.

1995-96: Two times to help a struggling mission pastor—painting, revival services, backyard clubs. Their church helped sponsor the pastor for several years.

1988, 1990, 1992, 1994: Sao Paulo, Brazil—evangelism, revivals, home Bible studies. 70 people attended one home Bible study. Eleven people accepted Christ. In a report on their work in Brazil, Juanita said,

“God moved in a mighty way. It was a very tiring, draining experience but a very spiritual, uplifting one. Acts 15-36: ‘Let us go back and visit our brothers, where we preached.’ We went back three times to Sao Paulo, working with different churches, sharing Jesus in schools, the work place, and up and down the streets.”

1997 and 1999: Dental missions in Romania—Dr. Cooper, the dentist for whom Juanita worked, and his family also went. They worked with missionaries Larry and Peggy Carnes. Long lines formed as news spread that this doctor had Novocain which doctors there did not have. They had many opportunities to share Christ's love.

When the Meares are invited to churches to report on their work, Juanita says, “If I had not been involved in WMU, learning and praying about missions, I would never have heard God's Call.”

The Meares are quick to say they are not the same people as they

were before volunteering for missions. They are more aware of what the missionaries are doing; they have more concern for people and their needs; their attitudes and priorities have changed; their faith has increased as they have seen God answer prayers and work through them when they make themselves available.

Miller and Peggy Garrison

Miller Garrison of Stanley, North Carolina, is a multi-talented and skilled man who earned a good livelihood as a result of his training and experience as an employee of Duke Power Company. His wife, Peggy, was always involved with Woman's Missionary Union in First Baptist Church, Stanley, and the Greater Gaston Baptist Association. As satisfying and effective as their lives were, God had other plans for them. Without children still to be educated—and one daughter already grown—they began to evaluate their lives in the light of what they were coming to understand as their purpose for being in the world.

Like some of their friends reaching early retirement age, they could afford to sell their home and build a better one. But they felt God had something more for them to do. When Miller took early retirement they, together, decided they would go and do whatever God wanted, wherever He wanted them. Already active with North Carolina Baptist Men, Peggy and Miller were ready to respond to emergency needs where floods, tornadoes and hurricanes had hit. They just went to give a hand to the victims and do whatever was needed, no matter the conditions that existed. It was a way to express Christian love and concern.

The first out of country trip for Miller was in 1979 to Brazil to do welding on an irrigation system for the missionaries.

In 1980 Miller and Peggy went to Tok, Alaska, to build a home for a missionary.

From 1984 to 1987 they made 35 trips to Caswell Baptist Assembly to scrape paint, repair, and renovate houses and dorms. Thousands of Baptist dollars were saved because of the Garrisons and other volunteers who donated labor, and often materials. Peggy climbed ladders and strapped on her tool belt like others on the job.

In 1986 Miller traveled to Togo, West Africa to help build a much needed bridge. The duo, Peggy and Miller, traveled often: New Windsor,

New York, to renovate a church; St. Maartens, Caribbean, to build a home for the pastor; Ramey, Pennsylvania, to renovate a church; and New York City, on a graffiti mission, to clean the apartment of a sick, elderly church member and to work on the roof of a church in Queens. In 1988 Miller returned to Togo, Africa, to build a house.

Then, together Miller and Peggy were on the road again: to Mars Hill College to build a chapel, to Brazil to build a church, Plattsburgh, New York, to build a church, Zaparozha, Ukraine, to build a church, Fastov, Ukraine, to build a church, Prague, Czech Republic, to renovate a seminary, to Holosno, Ukraine, to Shackelford, London, England, to repair a sewer line for a seminary, and two trips to Obukhov, Ukraine.

In response to disaster needs, Miller and Peggy made four trips to Richmond Heights, Florida, repairing damage from hurricane Andrew. Miller returned alone to work with a group of Methodist volunteers. Other disaster work was done in Hannibal, Missouri, following a devastating flood. They made five trips to work with World Changers in Murphy, North Carolina, and Miller to work with World Changers in Puerto Rico. Renovations were underway on the cabins at Camp Mundo Vista and Miller and Peggy made some seventeen trips, from 1993 to 1997, to the WMU camps to help with renovations.

Miller made fifteen trips to the Ukraine to work on churches and helped build churches across this country, including Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and North Carolina. Every mission effort cannot be listed here, but the records indicate Miller and/or Peggy Garrison carried out a total of 99 mission assignments from 1979 through 2000. They are still serving.

Acteens Activators Team

Woman's Missionary Union encourages a missions lifestyle for individuals and families as is evident in the stories recorded in this chapter.

The age-level organizations provided opportunities for missions involvement for adults, and for children and youth, as well, both in the local church and through associations. Sometimes planning is done through the state organization. One instance was the first North Carolina Acteens Activators Abroad team which served in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil, April 11-22, 1990.

The team of six Acteens was selected by the Acteens committee of the WMU executive board in January. These girls were already leaders in their churches and/or associations. After accepting the invitation to be

on this team they immediately began using weekends to train for the ministry they would have in Brazil. The team was commissioned at the WMU annual meeting at Ridgecrest on March 31.

On the team were Heather Bingham, Angie Bost, Nickie Bounds, Janina Cauley, Kelli Hopkins, and Korena Huneycutt. The team was led by Kathie Aiken, chairman of the Acteens committee, and Linda Todd, state Acteens director.

The dates for the mission trip took advantage of Easter holidays from school. During the Easter weekend the girls shared their personal testimonies at a missions camp and shared what working on Studiact had meant in their lives. Kathie Aiken and Linda Todd led conferences for leaders. The theme for the weekend was "Standing Firm in a World of Crisis."

Here are some of the favorite memories of the girl's eleven days on mission in Brazil.

Korena Huneycutt: "The mission trip to Brazil was one of the best experiences of my life. During Linda's message the girls at camp were listing crises they face at home, school, church and with friends. I realized they were listing the exact crises teenagers in America face. It hit me that people are people everywhere....

"It was a blessing to see how readily the Brazilians accepted us even though we didn't speak the same language. The day we arrived at camp, after the opening ceremonies, we were walking back to the cabin...when a group of the girls came up to us talking in Portuguese. We wanted to talk to them so we pulled out our Portuguese-English sheets. Finally we had to give up and say, "chow."

"Even though we didn't speak the same language, we spoke the universal language of love."

Kelli Hopkins: "One experience that meant a lot was when I met Cynthia. She became very special to me. She spoke very little English and I spoke no Portuguese, but we didn't let the language barrier get in the way. We spent a lot of time talking and getting to know each other.

"The second night we were at camp we had a campfire. When the invitation was given, Cynthia came down and accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. That touched my heart. I thought maybe I had a little influence in her decision."

Heather Bingham: "My most meaningful experiences took place at the Friendship House in Sao Paulo (where we were for three days)...There was a class with three- and four-year-olds. Each one was

pretty but there was one little girl with a special gleam in her eye. When our class time ended, we played. I wanted her to know I wanted to be her friend. Even though we couldn't speak the same language we could understand each other's need for the love that we showed for each other. The gleam in her eye was my sign that God wants me to become a missionary and work with children her age, perhaps in Brazil."

Kathie Aiken: "Those eyes, those beautiful piercing Brazilian eyes. I've seen them some nights as I've gone to sleep. I don't think I will ever forget the long, searching looks of the children as I shared the Bible stories. I also can see Sonja's eyes as we waved goodbye, eyes of thankfulness and sisterhood. (Sonja was the director of the Friendship House.)

Linda Todd: "I was so proud of this team. They worked hard and gave so much of themselves.

"Acteens Activators leaders have shared how much the Acteens they have taken on teams have grown as a result, but the same leaders never told me what could or would happen to the team leaders!

"One of the most satisfying experiences of the eleven days for me personally was being able to use my baby-talk Portuguese to communicate. Over ten years ago, I served as a Journeyman to Brazil so I understand and can speak some Portuguese, like a baby!....At the Friendship House I had to instruct the children as they made a craft. It really pleased me to see the children understand."

Janina Cauley: "When did I realize I was in Brazil? It was not when:

- I had to travel over 4,000 miles, by plane.
- I had to eat rice and beans almost everyday and sometimes twice a day.
- I prayed every minute I was riding in an automobile because of the 'interesting' way Brazilians drive.

When did I realize I was in Brazil? It was when:

- We were able to stand in front of about 120 Brazilian girls and leaders at Camp Sumare and hear them sing their national anthem for us and then we sang ours for them.
- On Saturday night, I was able to share at the campfire what prayer means to me and what God has done for me. During the invitation a girl came forward and received Jesus into her heart. She was joined by others who made different commitments
- We were lying in bed and were serenaded by Brazilian voices

outside our window, singing in English.

- We were able to stay with missionaries a couple of nights and got to talk with them about their work.
- On Tuesday afternoon we were able to visit in a lady's home and I shared, with the help of an interpreter, my testimony of what God is doing in my life.
- We were able to visit in some of the children's homes and meet their parents and see the situations they are living in.
- On the last day of our assigned task at Friendship House, Sonja, the director, asked us, "How many of you are thinking about being missionaries?" Each one of us raised a hand."

Christian Service Corps

From the beginning of volunteer missions, whatever the form, women in North Carolina have been there. Already mentioned is the Teachers' Volunteer Corps formed in North Carolina to provide teachers for six months in the summer in those areas of the state where schools were not readily available for the children, mostly in the mountain areas. They taught Bible and basic elementary school subjects. They were not paid for their services, stayed in the homes in the communities, and received only travel expenses.

Helping to secure volunteers and getting the project organized were Mrs. Walter Clark, Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones. In North Carolina the Sunday School department was also involved. The teachers were often sent to different areas in response to requests by concerned pastors.

In 1962, in response to a message on pioneer missions by Wendell Belew of the Home Mission Board, Susie Nabb Illingworth of Birmingham told Mr. Belew she would like to work in pioneer missions. She responded to a call to work in Colorado with WMU camps and leader training. At her own expense this WMU woman spent the summer working in Colorado, North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

President Jimmy Carter was interested in Christians volunteering and invited Mrs. Christine Gregory, WMU SBC president, along with other Southern Baptist Convention leadership, to the White House to hear his ideas of recruiting Christians to volunteer for a year at their own expense. This created interest in the Southern Baptist Convention. Evelyn Blount represented WMU on a missions agencies team to coor-

dinate recruiting, training and placing volunteers. This resulted in the Christian Service Corps.

In North Carolina most of the work with the CSC was done with the Home Mission Board, focusing on mission assignments in the United States. Volunteers were enlisted, trained and encouraged through annual weekend seminars attended by those who already were volunteers and those who were interested in volunteering. The seminars were planned by Suthell Walker of the NC WMU staff. She was a CSC volunteer herself, using her vacation time to serve.

The seminars brought representatives from the Home Mission Board who explained the process, gave an up to date look at needs, and assisted in handling specific assignments.

Among the early volunteers for the CSC were Ann and Sandy Smith of Greensboro. In 1966 they served in West Virginia, holding Bible studies, conducting surveys and worship services and doing evangelistic work.

Bernice Smith, from Eastern North Carolina, accepted numerous assignments, usually a different one every summer. A school teacher in the winter, she was a CSC volunteer in the only months she had free, serving in many locations in the homeland—and later taking some foreign mission assignments.

Suthell Walker, and later Thelma Goode, of Spindale, spent their vacation time several summers as CSC volunteers at the Mission Center in Knoxville, Tennessee.

When the CSC volunteers gathered for the annual seminar weekend in North Carolina they shared what they had done in the past year and often got new assignments for their next available volunteer time. The meetings were always exciting for the participants and those who assisted with planning and implementing the seminars.

These volunteers were forerunners for the thousands of volunteers who served since those days in the 1960's.

Epilogue

In my finite understanding of what God is about in the world, I do not believe this book has a conclusion or ending. We are all a part of something bigger than ourselves. Wonder of wonders, God allows each one of us to be a part of what He is doing as we allow His power to work in and through us.

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina can be seen as more than a structured organization. It has provided the means through which women, preschoolers, children and youth have learned about missions in God's plan for the world (past and present); they have been able to study God's Word and identify their own spiritual gifts; they have deepened their own commitment to respond to the commands of Christ in Matthew 28, realizing each person has been commanded to go and each has a responsibility to do so. The result is that Woman's Missionary Union's challenge through the years has fostered a missions lifestyle for many women, and often for their families.

It is clear a missions oriented and committed Christian woman adds strength to her church through stewardship, prayer and ministry. Like our first president, Fannie Heck, she carries the witness of the church to the "up and outs" and the "down and outs;" to those who look like us and those who don't; to eager, energetic young children; to searching youth—all because Jesus said, "Go ye. . . ." This woman gives time to meet with wiggly, giggly adolescents in order to tell them what God is doing in the world and because she sees the potential in their lives. She does not focus on her own worth but on the worth of another person who does not know Jesus and what He can do in his or her life.

In closing, I recall one of the first things I read about writing a history, that the historian needed to have the back of an armadillo. I recognized that when I started and I am even more aware of it now. Some may not agree with what I have done. Certainly they would have done it differently. However, I proceeded, realizing that each person must tell the story from her own perspective and as she understands it after

research and personal experience—71 years in a WMU organization. Others will need to do the same.

This is my humble offering with the earnest prayer God will use it to strengthen and encourage all who are presently involved in Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina, and all those who will follow us, stirring and keeping alive the missions motivation in all that we do through the denomination, association, and church, and as our individual lives flow out into the even larger world.

My unwavering awareness is that Woman's Missionary Union is of the Lord and will continue to be a channel in some form through which He accomplishes His purposes until He comes again.

— Dorothy Allred

Appendix 1

Presidents

1886-1915	Fannie E. S. Heck
1915-1936	Sallie Bailey Jones (Mrs. W. N.)
1936-1942	Bertha Turner (Mrs. J. Clyde)
1942-1945	Foy J. Farmer (Mrs. James)
1945	Bertha Turner (Mrs. J. Clyde)
1946-1951	Foy J. Farmer (Mrs. James S.)
1951-1956	Mabel Claire Maddrey (Mrs. C. Gordon)
1956-1961	Velma McGee (Mrs. W. K.)
1961-1966	Sarah Parker (Mrs. A. L.)
1966-1971	Emma Benfield (Mrs. R. Knolan)
1971-1976	Bernice Cross (Mrs. Gilmer)
1976-1981	Betty Gilreath (Mrs. J. Frank)
1981-1986	Bea McRae (Mrs. Horace)
1986-1991	Dorothy P. Allred (Mrs. Hoyle)
1991-1995	Ann Smith (Mrs. Sanford)
1995-1999	Donice Harrod (Mrs. J. D.)
1999-	Ruby Fulbright (Mrs. Ellis)

Corresponding Secretaries, Executive Secretaries, Executive Directors

1886-1887	Sallie Bailey,
1888-1889	Mrs. J. A. Briggs
1900-1906	Sallie Bailey Jones (Mrs. W. N.)
1907-1910	Mrs. Hight C. Moore
1910-1911	Elizabeth Briggs
1911-1916	Blanche Barrus
1916-1921	Bertha Carroll
1921	Mrs. W. H. Reddish
1922-1926	Mary Warren
1926-1939	Mrs. Enda R. Harris
1939-1943	Mrs. W. D. Briggs
1943-1945	Mary Currin

Executive Secretaries, Executive Directors (continued)

1945-1946	Mrs. Foy J. Farmer (acting)
1946-1955	Ruth Provence
1955-1968	Miriam J. Robinson
1968-1977	Sara Ann Hobbs
1977	Betty Gilreath (Mrs. Frank Jr.), interim
1977-1993	Nancy Curtis
1993-1994	Dorothy P. Allred (Mrs. Hoyle), interim
1994-2000	Irma C. Duke (Mrs. James)
2000-	Dr. Katharine Bryan, interim

YWA Leaders

1907-1912	Mary K. Applewhite
1913-1914	Ellen Graham
1914-1915	Mrs. J. W. Bunn
1915-1918	Mrs. C. E. Mason
1919-1924	Mrs. R. N. Simms

Band Superintendent

1897-1907	Elizabeth Briggs
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Junior Superintendent

1907-1910	Elizabeth Briggs
1910-1911	Mrs. Myrtle H. Farmer
1911-1924	Elizabeth Briggs

Young People's Secretaries

1924-1929	Dorothy Kellam
1929-1934	Alva Lawrence
1935-1943	Mary Currin
1943-1946	Kathryn Abee
1947-1951	Hilda Mayo
1952-1953	Marie Epley
1954-1957	Janet Wilson

Royal Ambassador Secretaries

1944-1945	A. T. Greene, Jr.
1945-1957	B. W. Jackson

YWA Directors

1958-1966	Sara Ann Hobbs
1966-1970	Linda Warren

Girls Auxiliary Directors

1955-1959	Barbara Rodman
1960-1964	Willa Dean Freeman
1964-1966	Nancy Belle Cousins
1966-1969	Sara Ann Hobbs
1969-1970	Jolene Ivey

Sunbeam Band Directors

1957-1959	Beverly Nelson
1960-1963	Delois Hamrick
1963-1966	Mrs. Louise Burgess
1966-1970	Bernice Popham

Woman's Missionary Societies Director

1959-1970	Kathryn Bullard
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Baptist Women's Directors/Consultants

1970-1975	Kathryn Bullard
1975-1986	Suthell Walker
1985-1995	Carolyn Hopkins

Baptist Young Women Directors

1970-1972	Linda Warren
1973-1977	Nancy Curtis
1977-1982	Nona Kay Bickerstaff
1982-1985	Pat Ritchie
1987-1995	Carolyn Hopkins

Mission Friends Directors/Consultants

1970-1972	Bernice Popham
1973-1985	Pat Ritchie
1986-1995	Marcia McQueen

Girls in Action Directors/Consultants

1970-1976	Jolene Ivey
1976-1982	Pat Ritchie
1983-1986	Jan High
1986-1995	Marcia McQueen

Acteens Directors/Consultants

1970-1976	Jolene Ivey
1976-1986	Carolyn Hopkins
1987-1991	Linda Todd
1992-1994	Paula O'Briant
1995	Jeanette Walters

WMU Consultant

1986-1995	Jan High
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Missions Growth Consultant

1995-	Carolyn Hopkins
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Missions Education Consultant

1995-	Jan High
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Missions Ministries Consultant

1995-1999	Jeanette Walters (Mrs. Larry)
1999-	Margaret Harding (Mrs. William)

Missions Support Consultant

1995	Marcia McQueen
1996-	Cara Lynn Croom

Camp Mundo Vista Resident Manager

1976-1978	Tommy Bridges
1978-1992	Leland Bingham
1992-	Bob Navey

Language Missions Consultant

1998-	Linda Hicks
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Development Director

1996-	Edna Walters
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Camp Directors

1970-1975	Jolene Ivey
1977	Carolyn Hopkins
1978-1979	Pat Ritchie
1980	Caroline McManus
1981-1983	Debra McGuire
1984-1987	Tammy Herring
1988-1991	Linda Todd
1992-1993	Paula O'Briant (Mrs. Thad)
1994	Carolyn Hopkins/Jennifer Long
1995	Jeanette Walters/Camille Hatch
1996	Teresa Russell
1997-1998	Tammy Tate
1999-2000	Laura Pendleton

National Acteens Panelists from North Carolina

1981	Michele Cherry--Washington, NC
1981	Janet Harris--Cary, NC
1982	Cynthia Teague--Bennett, NC
1983	Leigh Sneed--Raleigh, NC
1984	Audra Chambers--Greensboro, NC
1985	Twyla Taylor--Bladenboro, NC
1989	Tonia Wheeler--High Point, NC
1992	Shawna Byrd--McLeansville, NC
1998	Adrienne Henderson--Asheboro, NC
1999	Tera Hayes--Granite Falls, NC

Support Staff

Secretaries

1948	Miss Mabel Baucom, Miss Josephine Wood (Records were not available from 1949-1962)
	Secretary/Receptionist
1963	Mrs. Robert Philyaw, Mrs. John Miller
1965	Mrs. James T. Parker
1966-1971	Mrs. Pina Powell
1967-1968	Mrs. Christine Magoun
1969	Mrs. Pat Grose
1970-1974	Maxine Bumgarner

Secretaries (continued)

1975	Patricia Thompson
1976-1978	Janet Poole
1979-1982	Linda Love
1983-1986	Kay Abbott Bisette
1984-1994	Belle Wilson
1986-1999	Violet Matthews
1988	Cheryl Cruickshank
1995-1997	Linda Kreiter
1999-	Ramona Whaley
2000	Erica Gleva
2000	Laura Pendleton Davis

Literature Secretary

1963	Eva Jones
1964-1968	Beulah Mae Gill
1969	Mrs. Jackie Craycraft
1970	Avenelle King
1971	Gloria Whitehurst
(title not used again until 1979)	
1979-1982	Pam Harris
1982	Kay Abbott
(title not used after 1982)	

Financial Secretary

1963-1973	Vivian Nowell
1974-1978	Sandra Dillard Arscott
1979-1986	Diane Hurlbut
1987-1988	Janie Jeans
1989-1998	Cheryl Cruickshank
1998-2000	Paige Perry

Administrative Assistant

1964-1966	Eva Jones
(the title was not used again until 1972)	
1972-1986	Pina Powell Maynard
1986-1998	Kay Abbott Bisette
1998-1999	Judy King
2000-	Michelle Norman
2000-	Judy Branch

Appendix 2

Approved by the Executive Committee.

Mutual Covenant 5/19/97

Signed: Roy J. Smith

Whereas, for more than a century North Carolina Baptist women have worked in an auxiliary status under the banner of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina to advance the work and the support of the Baptist churches of North Carolina; state, home and foreign missions; and God's Kingdom as a whole; and

Whereas, God has blessed beyond measure the work of the Woman's Missionary Union;

Whereas, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina provide for auxiliary status for Woman's Missionary Union with respect to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and provide Woman's Missionary Union an important role in the governance of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; and

Whereas, since its inception, Woman's Missionary Union has been responsible for the promotion of missions involvement, education and support of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Baptist churches of North Carolina and has promoted giving through the Cooperative Program; and

Whereas, Woman's Missionary Union has been included in the Baptist State Convention budget while governing itself autonomously; and

Whereas, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Woman's Missionary Union desire hereby to memorialize and covenant to continue their existing relationship for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom;

Now therefore, the Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist State Convention of North Carolina do hereby mutually covenant as follows:

1. Woman's Missionary Union shall continue to promote the state, home and foreign missions causes and financial support of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the purposes thereof in missions support, missions education, missions involvement and spiritual development toward a missions lifestyle.
2. The Baptist State Convention shall continue to provide the reasonable budgetary requirements of the Woman's Missionary Union as in past years, subject to its own budgetary restraints.
3. The Woman's Missionary Union shall continue to govern itself autonomously, including but not limited to, election of its officers, board of directors and staff, and budget administration.

Roy J. Smith

Roy J. Smith, Executive Director, BSC
May 7, 1997

Irma C. Duke

Irma C. Duke, Executive Director, WMU
May 7, 1997

Mutual Covenant of North Carolina WMU and Baptist State Convention

Appendix 3

North Carolina Foreign Missionaries

Name	Appointed
Yates, Matthew Tyson, China	1846
Yates, Eliza E. Moring (Mrs. M.T.), China	1846
James, Frederick S., Africa	1847
Lacy, Olivia Barkley (Mrs. J.H.), Africa	1853
Phillips, A.D., Africa	1854
Bryan, Robert Thomas, China	1855
Bryan, Lula Freeland (Mrs. R.T. #1), China	1855
Herring, David Wells, China	1855
Herring, Maggie Nutt (Mrs. D.W. #1), China	1855
Chappell, Leroy Norcross, China	1888
Chappell, Mary Ella Moore, China	1888
Britton, Thomas C., China	1888
Britton, Nannie Sessoms (Mrs. T.C.), China	1888
Tatum, Ezra Frank, China	1888
Bostick, George P., China	1889
Knight, Fannie E., China	1889
Duggan, Jane Pritchard (Mrs. J.R.), Mexico	1889
Newton, Christopher Columbus, Africa	1889
Newton, Cornelia Herring (Mrs. C.C.), Africa	1889
Newton, Alberta, Africa	1889
Entzminger, Maggie Griffith (Mrs. W.E.), Brazil	1891
Greene, George Washington, China	1891
Greene, Valeria Page (Mrs. G.W.), China	1891
Porter, S.J., Brazil	1893
Greene, Anna M., China	1898
Owen, Jesse Colman, China	1899
Crocker, William Elwyn, China	1899
Anderson, Mary Jordan (Mrs. C.J.F.), Italy	1900
Newton, William Carey, China	1902
Dozier, Maude Burke (Mrs. C.K.), Japan-Hawaii	1906
Abernathy, Gertrude Inez, China	1908
King, Mary L. Barrow (Mrs. W.D.), China	1908
Justice, James M., Argentina	1908
Bowden, Beulah, Mexico	1908
McIntyre, Lila, China	1908
Tipton, Mary Greenlee Bryson (Mrs. W.H.), China	1909
Cox, Laura, Mexico	1910

NAME APPOINTED

Leonard, Charles A., China-Hawaii	1910
Anderson, Pansy Greene (Mrs. P.H.), China	1910
Bostick, Wade D., China	1910
Bostick, Flora Holloway (Mrs. W.D.), China	1910
Willingham (Mrs. Foy Johnson Willingham Farmer), Japan	1911
Hipps, John Burder, China	1913
McMillan, Henry Hudson, China-Bahamas	1913
McMillan, Leila Memory (Mrs. H.H.), China-Bahamas	1913
Johnson, Roberta Pearle, China	1915
Anderson, Mimie Middleton (Mrs. J.T.), China	1915
Bostick, Addie, China	1916
Gallimore, Arthur Raymond, China	1918
Caudle, Cora, Africa	1918
Powell, Julius Carlyle, Nigeria	1919
Powell, Roas Hocutt (Mrs. J.C.), Nigeria	1919
McGuire, Victor V., China	1919
Olive, Lucius Bunyan, China	1920
Olive, Nell Fowler (Mrs. L.B.), China	1920
Moore, James Walton, China	1920
Middleton, Gordon K., China	1920
Middleton, Celia Herring (Mrs. G.K.), China	1920
Herring, George Nutt, China	1920
Grayson, Alda, China-Hawaii	1921
Schell, Naomi E., Japan	1921
Nix, Willard Voniver, Japan	1921
Boone, Clarence Dixon, Mexico	1921
Phillips, Albert Rufus, Argentina	1921
Blackman, Lonnie Elwood, China-Hawaii	1922
Blackman, Gladys Yates (Mrs. L.E.), China-Hawaii	1922
Murray, Katie, China-Hawaii	1922
Newton, Rachel Steeves, China	1922
Hines, William Earle, China	1922
Bostick, Nell Lawrence (Mrs. E.M.), China	1923
Hurley, Dan T., Romania	1923
Hurley, Ida Flake (Mrs. D.T.), Romania	1923
Norwood, Emma Wilson (Mrs. E.W.) China	1923
Johnson, Belle Tyner (Mrs. T.N.), China	1923
White, Philip E., China	1924
White, Mattie Norman (Mrs. P.E.), China	1924
Woodward, Frank T.N., Hawaii	1924
Abernathy, John A., China-Korea-Philippines	1924
Johnson, William B., China-Indonesia	1925

NAME APPOINTED

Spence, Marjorie, Chile	1925
Gillespie, Arthur S., China	1931
Gillespie, Pauline Pittard (Mrs. A.S.), China	1931
Lake, Virginia (Mrs. John #3), China	1933
Dozier, Mary E. Wiley (Mrs. E.B.), Japan	1933
Hale, Elizabeth Neal, Malaya	1934
Vance, Shelby William, M.D., China	1934
Daniel, Ruby Inez, Hungary	1935
Moore, William Dewey, Italy	1937
Nowell, Vivian Estelle, Nigeria	1938
Dyer, Mary Mills (Mrs. R.A.), Japan	1940
Campbell, Viola Dee, El Paso, Texas	1942
Councilman, Bessie Estelle, Argentina	1943
Coleman, Inabelle Graves, China-Taiwan	1943
Ingram, Ray P., Nigeria	1944
McGee, Doris Thompson (Mrs. J.S.), Nigeria	1945
McGee, John Sydney, Nigeria	1945
Kendrick, Bertie Lee, Hawaii	1945
Eddinger, Sarah Rebecca, Chile	1945
Talley, Frances, Japan	1946
Lawton, Benjamin Ray, Italy	1947
Kirk, James Palmer, Brazil	1947
Deal, Barbara Williams (Mrs. Z.J.), Colombia	1947
Brooks, Luck Ernelle, Nigeria	1947
Moore, W. Donald, China	1947
Humphrey, James Edward, Nigeria	1948
Humphrey, Rachel Thompson (Mrs. J.E.), Nigeria	1948
Miles, Julia Virginia, Indonesia	1948
Morgan, Quinn Pett, Gold Coast, Africa	1948
Austin, Stella Asalee, Nigeria	1949
Scoggin, Blainard Elmo, Pastestine	1949
Peacock, Edith Baucom (Mrs. H.F.), Europe (Switzerland)	1950
Grant, Worth C., Japan	1950
Highfill, Virginia, Japan	1950
Swann, Ada Ruth, Arabia	1950
Compton, Betsy Dunning (Mrs. C.E.), Brazil	1950
Page, Mary Frances, Nigeria	1950
Harris, Robert Lawson, Peru	1950
Middleton, Jean Anthony (Mrs. H.K.), Chile	1950
Middleton, Hurbert Kinson, Chile	1950
Andrews, William Parker, Chile	1950
Oliver, John Samuel, Brazil	1950

NAME APPOINTED

Cader, Ulena DeWeese (Mrs. B.E.), Brazil	1951
Humphries, Carol Leigh, Nigeria	1951
Spencer, Doris Louis Scalf (Mrs. A.E.), Okinawa	1952
Satterwhite, James Pumphrey, Japan	1952
Satterwhite, Altha Smith (Mrs. J.P.), Japan	1952
Hill, Ronald Callahan, Thailand	1952
Hill, Evelyn Pittman (Mrs. R.C.), Thailand	1952
Cowsert, Hilda Bean (Mrs. G. B.), Brazil	1952
Gordon, Audrey Jolly (Mrs. E.E.), Philippines	1952
Burch, Vella Jane, Switzerland	1953
Clark, Pauline Watts (Mrs. C.F.), Japan	1953
Brock, Jr., Lonnie Ross, Brazil	1953
Carroll, Betty Cowan (Mrs. D.M.), Argentina	1953
Davis, Ruby Fletcher (Mrs. H.V.), Brazil	1953
Hern, Nancy Hunter (Mrs. W.O.), Jordan	1954
Hawkins, Fred Lee, Jr., Brazil	1955
Lennon, Samuel Judson, Thailand	1955
Lennon, Harriet Orr (Mrs. S.J.), Thailand	1955
McCall, Louis Edmond, Thailand	1955
Cline, Jr., Perry Augustus, Thailand	1955
Snow, Laura Frances, Chile	1955
High, Katherine Younts (Mrs. Thomas), Nigeria	1955
Glass, Ernest Wilson, Singapore	1956
Phillips, Etta Jarvis (Mrs. G.D.), Rhodesia	1956
Brady, Martha Frances Yates (Mrs. O.W.), Br. Guiana	1956
Goodwin, Jr., James Garland, Korea	1956
Bennett, Troy Carson, Pakistan	1956
Turnmire, Faye Virginia, Philippines	1956
Cooper, Nell June, Japan	1956
Poe, Eleanor Ostwalt (Mrs. J.T.), El Paso, Texas	1956
Thompson, Cecil Lavon, Argentina	1956
Clark, Gene Austin, Japan	1956
Poe, John Alexander, Brazil	1956
Wilson, Sarah Georgia, Argentina	1957
Edwards, Alice Blankenship (Mrs. T.K.), Nigeria	1957
Tabor, Charles Gordon, M.D., Korea	1957
Hix, Glenn Luther, Taiwan	1957
McKinley, Rebecca Knott (Mrs. H.T.), Rhodesia	1957
Smith, Loy Connell, M.D., Nigeria	1958
Smith, Eunice Andrews (Mrs. L. C.), Nigeria	1958
Harrell, Ralph Webster, Kenya	1958
Harrell, Rosalind Knott (Mrs. R.W.), Kenya	1958

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Johnson, Daniel Calhoun, Chile	1958
Johnson, Sarah Kennedy (Mrs. D.C.), Chile	1958
Perryman, Maurine Tate, Jordan	1958
Allen, Jr., Charles Aubrey, Guatemala	1958
Allen, Mildred Short (Mrs. C.A.), Guatemala	1958
Godwin, Colon Leo, Ghana	1958
Godwin, Carolyn Smith (Mrs. C.L.), Ghana	1958
Favell, Clay Hudson, Ghana	1958
Lockridge, Mary Manuel (Mrs. J.T.), Philippines	1958
Cannon, Mary Dunning, Japan	1959
Hooper, Dale Grey, Kenya	1959
Jones, Archie Valejo, Ecuador	1959
Jones, Julia Hough (Mrs. A.V.), Ecuador	1959
Moss, Jebedee Vance, Zambia	1959
Moss, Evelyn Krause (Mrs. Z.V.), Zambia	1959
Reece, Zemery Don, Nigeria	1959
Roberson, William Thomas, Vietnam	1959
Roberson, Audrey Hanes (Mrs. W.T.), Vietnam	1959
Knight, Howard Carsie, Argentina	1959
Wiggs, Charles William, Korea	1960
Wiggs, Bonnie Belle Johnson (Mrs. C.W.), Korea	1960
Phillips, Marian Hazel, Nigeria	1960
Farthing, Earl Davis, Japan	1960
Farthing, Lovie Cashwell (Mrs. E.D.), Japan	1960
Goble, Harry Anderson, Guam	1960
Goble, Doria A. Cash (Mrs. H.A.), Japan	1960
Nations, Lois Sheffield (Mrs. Archie L.), Japan	1960
Griffin, Doris Putnam (Mrs. C.P.), Indonesia	1960
Starnes, Howard Cloyes, Korea	1960
Starnes, Mary Bumgarner (Mrs. H.C.), Korea	1960
Compton, Alan Wesley, Chile-Mexico	1960
Compton, Jane Carter Luther (Mrs. A.W.), Chile-Mexico	1960
Greene, James Young, Korea	1961
Greene, Judith Church (Mrs. J.Y.), Korea	1961
Pennell, Wayne Arthur, Indonesia	1961
Cain, Violet Sharpe (Mrs. W.H.), W. Indies	1961
Beckett, Charles Austin, Pakistan	1961
James, Samuel McFall, Vietnam	1962
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Faw, Geneva Willis (Mrs. W.B.), Nigeria	1962
Roberts, Hoyt Mason, Honduras	1962
Ledbetter, Ethel Trivett (Mrs. M.J.), Guatemala-Mexico	1962

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Ledbetter, Michael J., Guatemala-Mexico	1962
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Rogers, Carol Ray, Indonesia	1963
Palmer, Grace Powell (Mrs. H.J.), Nigeria	1963
Brincefield, Clara Mae, Chile	1963
Hensley, Robert Carroll, Brazil	1963
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Tyner, Libby Alexander (Mrs. G.F.), Philippines	1963
Henson, Exie Vee (Mrs. L.G.), Brazil	1963
Holloway, Evelyn Strauss (Mrs. B.W.), Uguanda-Kenya	1963
Snell, Roy Edgar, Korea	1963
Snell, Sarah Brooks (Mrs. R.E.), Korea	1963
Tribble, Sarah Watkins (Mrs. C.L.), Chile	1963
Davenport, Bonnie Pearce (Mrs. S.W.), Argentina	1963
Poovey, Harrey Emmett, Taiwan	1963
Morphis, Luther H., Germany	1963
Morphis, Mary Frances (Mrs. L.H.), Germany	1963
McElrath, Elizabeth (Mrs. W.M.), Indonesia	1964
Travis, Robert Felts, Kenya	1964
Lineberger, Sr., Marion Thomas, Argentina	1964
Miller, Paul Henderson, Nigeria	1964
Clark, Mary Louise, Rhodesia	1964
Hood, Alton Lee, M.D., Thailand	1964
Gentry, Jack Leonard, Taiwan	1964
Gentry, Ruby Hickman (Mrs. J.L.), Taiwan	1964
Harlan, Mrs. Ronald Dean, Venezuela	1964
Ballard, James Harold, S. Brazil	1965
Divers, Mary Evelyn Hensley (Mrs. John Daniel), Argentina	1965
Stocks, Jr., Rozier Lee, Zambia	1965
Allard, Joseph Charles, Brazil	1966
Allard, Gloria Little (Mrs. J.C.), Brazil	1966
Byrd, Harry Emerson, Guatemala	1966
Byrd, Jean Farrell (Mrs. H.E.), Guatemala	1966
Faris, Sarah Jo Bullock (Mrs. Alvin), Brazil	1966
Walters, Doris Lavonne, Japan	1966
Lewis, Dorothy Cuthrell (Mrs. T.L.), Brazil	1966
Frye, Charles Ray, Malaysia	1966
Frye, Kathy Bradley (Mrs. C.R.), Malaysia	1966
Cole, Roger W., Brazil	1966
Owensby, Ronell L., Venezuela	1966
Owensby, Annie Pack (Mrs. R.L.), Venezuela	1966
Compton, Bobbie Dale, Colombia	1966

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Nowell, Grady, Honduras	1966
Nowell, Barbara Short (Mrs. Grady), Honduras	1966
Stephens, Jr., Thomas, Indonesia	1966
Stephens, Yvonne Yoder (Mrs. Thomas, Jr.), Indonesia	1966
Bragg, Faye Grace Helms (Mrs. K.R.), Japan	1967
Buckner, Charles Edward, Indonesia	1967
Braswell, Margaret Joan Owen (Mrs. G.W., Jr.), Lebanon	1967
Furr, Max Taylor, Peru	1967
Barron, Linda Ann Pierson (Mrs. J.R.), Ghana	1968
Johnson, Vera Laura Rose (Mrs. Paul Burke), Philippines	1968
Elmore, Lanny Monroe, Uganda	1968
Elmore, Brenda Jane Clay (Mrs. L.M.), Uganda	1968
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Thomas, Phyllis Dianne, Chile, Antofagasta	1976
Barrett, Lynn Madison (Mrs. J.W.), Hong Kong	1976
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Miller, Sarah Hilda Herndon (Mrs. James, Jr.), Ecuador	1977
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Wellmon, Wayne Kenneth, Grenada	1978
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Ellis, Janie, Japan	1978
Long, David C., North Brazil	1978
Leagans, C. Ellis, Colombia	1978
Bane, III, John G., Italy	1979
Bane, Celia (Mrs. John G.), Italy	1979
Brisson, E. Carson, Israel	1979
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York, Ted E., Ivory Coast	1982
York, Carla Frances Andrews (Mrs. Ted E.), Ivory Coast	1982
Mills, Kenneth E., Philippines	1982
Mills, Jeanne M. Gulledge (Mrs. K.E.), Philippines	1982
Branscome, Michael W., Venezuela	1983
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Campbell, Vida G. Potts (Mrs. Charles G.), Philippines	1983
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Larson, Maria A. Clark (Mrs. J. Franklin), Belgium	1983
Oakley, Phillip S., Benin	1983
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Sutherland, Kandy Maria Queen (Mrs. Donald D.), Switzerland .	1983
Goss, B. Stephenson (Steve), Japan	1983
Goss, Phyllis J. Johnson (Mrs. B. Stephenson), Japan	1983
Thorpe, Patricia S. Chamberlain (Mrs. B. Wayne), Nepal	1983
Bennett, Troy Carson, Tanzania	1984
Broughton, Durwood L., Ivory Coast	1984
Knight, Jr., Fletcher H., Yemen	1984
Knight, Judy M. Lawrence (Mrs. Fletcher H., Jr.), Yemen	1984
Swanner, Charles P., Uruguay	1984
Vick, Beverly D. Hawkins (Mrs. Clifford R.), Belgium	1984
Jones, Robert E., Senegal	1984
Boyd, Lester C., Surinam	1984
Helms, Jr., Kenneth D., Spain	1984
Helms, Martha J. Culp (Mrs. Kenneth D., Jr.), Spain	1984
Key, Elena C. Cowsert (Mrs. J. Guy), South Brazil	1984
Norman, Mickie J. Wilkinson (Mrs. Robert), Uganda	1984
Kirk, J. Thomas, Portugal	1984
Buchanan, Regina D., Uruguay	1984
Smith, Janice M. Rowland (Mrs. David B.), Ecuador	1984
Joseph, Anita Kaye Marshburn (Mrs. James Edwin), Brazil	1984
Parks, James Walter, Chile	1984

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Parks, Wanda Jeannette Connell (Mrs. James Walter), Chile	1984
Smith, Francis Gurley, Chile	1984
Smith, Bonnie Frances Lunsford (Mrs. Francis Gurley), Chile	1984
Russell, Herman Wright, Malawi	1984
Russell, Patricia Joye Chrissman (Mrs. Herman Wright), Malawi	1984
Newton, Roger Everette, Norway	1984
Lane, Evelyn Ruth, Tanzania	1984
Threatt, Gary H., Botswana	1985
Andrews, Sue Page (Mrs. Carl Frank), Burkina Faso	1985
Collins, Debra Y., BSPH, El Paso, Texas	1985
Connell, Dennis W., Japan	1985
Connell, Deborah C. Spence (Mrs. Dennis W.), Japan	1985
Gambill, Christopher R., Taiwan	1985
Gambill, Joy D. Martin (Mrs. Christopher R.), Japan	1985
Hodges, Jr., Jack R., Gaza	1985
Hodges, C. Shawn Patton (Mrs. Jack R., Jr.), Gaza	1985
Roberts, Debra L. Pety (Mrs. Robert E.), Uruguay	1985
Childress, Roger, Zimbabwe	1985
Childress, Rose Ann Barringer (Mrs. Roger), Zimbabwe	1985
Blount, Linda Ann Powers (Mrs. Richard Edward), Thailand	1985
Hensley, Robert C., Panama	1985
Hensley, Betty Jo Carroll (Mrs. Robert C.), Panama	1985
Reynolds, Lonnie Austin, Spain	1985
Davis, Cynthia Anne Crisp (Mrs. Earnest Cleburne, Jr.), Hong Kong/Macao	1985
Hefner, Robert Christopher, Equatorial Brazil	1985
Hefner, Phyllis Jo Hardin (Mrs. Robert Christopher) Equatorial Brazil	1985
Carothers, Ronald, Guatemala	1985
Carothers, Margie L. Williams (Mrs. Ronald) Guatemala	1985
Plummer, Robert J., Dominican Republic	1985
Plummer, Linda H. Brown (Mrs. Robert), Dominican Republic	1985
Russell, James D., Japan	1985
Russell, Dale Woodside (Mrs. James), Japan	1985
Ward, Zollie Franklin, South Africa	1986
Ward, Patricia Ann Brown (Mrs. Zollie), South Africa	1986
McCracken, Ronald Wayne, Dominican Republic	1986
McCracken, Angelia Meg Beane, Dominican Republic	1986
Alexander, Mark Steven, Argentina	1986
Bradley, Karen Denise Clayton (Mrs. Randy Dean), Argentina	1986

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Cook, Frances Elizabeth, Paraguay	1986
Howard, Cynthia Ruth, India	1986
Ingram, Chris Alan, Uruguay	1987
Brinkley, Matthew Wayne, Bolivia	1987
Pruitt, John Wesley, Trinidad	1987
Pruitt, John, Caribbean Basin	1987
Schmidt, Martha Jones (Mrs. Bruce), Kenya	1987
Smith, Mark Hoyle, Dominican Republic	1987
Hatfield, Menda Sue Godfrey (Mrs. Daniel), Panama	1988
Angus, Vickie Johnson (Mrs. Eugene), Brazil	1988
Summey, Keith L., Jordan	1988
Wall, Roger C., Jordan	1988
Wall, Trudie Reid (Mrs. Roger), Jordan	1988
Valerio, Lee Ann Garland (Mrs. Raul), Mexico	1988
Childers, Marty Keith, Bolivia	1988
Childers, Melissa Vaugh (Mrs. Marty), Bolivia	1988
Forrester, Clifton, Peru	1988
King, Paula (Mrs. Steven), Argentina	1988
Vaughn, Kim Davis (Mrs. Timothy), West Germany	1988
Copple, John Thomas, Nigeria	1988
Copple, Kathryn (Mrs. John), Nigeria	1988
Kuykendall, Debra Lynn McNeely (Mrs. Duane), Korea	1988
Harvey, Connie Turpin (Mrs. Donald), Chile	1989
Key, Ronald Ray, Gambia	1989
McWhite, David Allen, Ecuador	1989
Rhodes, Linda Pamela, Zambia	1989
Smith, Randall, Philippines	1990
Smith, Debra (Mrs. Randall), Philippines	1990
Tomlin, Charles Joseph, Germany	1990
Tomlin, Teresa (Mrs. Charles Joseph), Germany	1990
Sprouse, Benjamin, Brazil	1990
Sharpe, Cecelia Ann, Yemen	1990
James, Stephen Samuel, North Asia	1991
Bodenheimer, David Gorrell, Hungary	1991
Lethco, Jerry Donald, South Brazil	1991
Ford, Walter, Zambia	1991
Ford, Jacquelyn Napier (Mrs. Walter), Zambia	1991
Ellison, Janet Carson (Mrs. Robert), Nigeria	1991
Pratt, Catherine Howell (Mrs. Zane), Central Asia	1991
McCracken, Lynn, East Asia	1991
Baker, Anita Lynn Powell, Ivory Coast	1991

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Cocila, Jr., Benedict John (B.J.), Europe	1992
Crawford, William Louis, Brazil	1992
Crawford, Grace Faye Hoyle (Mrs. William), Brazil	1992
Feild, Ellen Ashley Powell (Mrs. Stephen), Paraquay	1992
McCurry, Judith Eileen Horne (Mrs. James), Central Asia	1992
McNeill, Darlene Mac Craig (Mrs. Joseph), Brazil	1992
Kitchin, Phillip Edgar, Belgium	1992
Kitchin, Myra Lynn Carlisle (Mrs. Phillip), Belgium	1992
Brady, John Thomas, North Africa	1993
Brady, Jenny Lee Farrar (Mrs. John), North Africa	1993
McNiel, Mark Lee, Germany	1993
Crane, Renee Ritchie Adams (Mrs. David), Kenya	1993
White, Carmen Hood (Mrs. Frank), Indonesia	1993
Taw, Roby Lee Vest (Mrs. Raymond), East Asia	1993
Bullington, Karen Patricia William (Mrs. Phillip), Dominican Republic	1993
Baker, Charles Alan, Central Asia	1993
McElrath, Elizabeth Ann Mills, Morocco	1993
Sweatman, Deen Walker (Mrs. C.W.), Swaziland	1993
McIntyre, Roy Clarence, Bangladesh (SBC)	1994
Collins, John Stephen, Hong Kong (SBC)	1994
Stocks, Ralph, Europe (SBC)	1994
William, Sharon Kay, Taiwan (SBC)	1994
Gullis, Jr., Wesley Gene, Southern Asia and the Pacific (SBC) ...	1994
Cline, Jr., Robert Edward, Central Asia (SBC)	1994
Wester, Karen Annette, East Asia (SBC)	1994
Blanton, David, Taiwan (SBC)	1994
Burnette, Richard, Thailand (CBF)	1994
Ogburn, Beth (Mrs. Tom), Thailand (CBF)	1994
Gribble, Benjamen Wesley, Philippines	1995
Brooks, Randal Keith, East Asia	1995
Springle, Robert Marion, Central Europe	1995
Springle, Barbara Carlyle (Mrs. Robert), Central Europe	1995
Springer, Karen Allene, Burkina Faso	1995
Millar, Keith Douglas, Mexico	1995
Travis, Pamilia Lynn Cockman (Mrs. Keith), Costa Rica	1995
Cearley, Thomas Wayne, Chad	1995
Cearley, Carol Faye Rierson (Mrs. Thomas), Chad	1995
Southern, Daniel Ray, East Asia	1995
Southern, Donna Beth Cooke (Mrs. Daniel), East Asia	1995
Ward, Ronald Mark, CSI-Central	1995

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Reynolds, Lonnie Austin, Spain (reappointed)	1995
Bentley, Thomas, International Service Corp	1996
Bentley, Muriel (Mrs. Thomas), International Service Corp	1996
Booth, James, Cooperative Services International	1996
McCrary, Beverly, East Asia	1996
Proctor, David, South Korea	1996
Wyatt, Marc, Thailand	1996
Wyatt, Kim (Mrs. Marc), Thailand	1996
Mauney, Richard Steadman, Romania	1997
Allen, Todd Fitzgerald, Central & Southern Asia	1997
Allen, Mrs. Todd Fitzgerald, Central & Southern Asia	1997
Bennett, Sharon Peek (Mrs. James David), Central & Southern Asia	1997
Boone, Amy, Southern Africa	1997
Brinkley, Matthew Wayne, Peru (reappointed)	1997
Johnson, Philip Howard, Honduras	1997
Powell, Mark Nelson, Uganda	1997
Powell, Kathy Miranda Craddock (Mrs. Mark), Uganda	1997
Stamey, James Bradley, Russia	1997
Stamey, Lori Anne McSwain, Russia	1997
Witmore, Myron Lynn, Southern Asia	1997
Walker, James D., Northern Africa & Middle East	1997
Walker, Rebecca (Mrs. James), Northern Africa & Middle East	1997
Beddingfield, Aaron, West Africa	1998
Beddingfield, Dorothy (Mrs. Aaron), West Africa	1998
Bingham, Heather, Mexico	1998
Brannon, Stephen J., Central & Southern Asia	1998
Burns, Jack, South Korea	1998
Burns, Janet (Mrs. Jack), South Korea	1998
Clemmons, Thomas, Middle America	1998
Cox, David, Eastern Africa	1998
Cox, Joy (Mrs. David), Eastern Africa	1998
Edwards, Melanie, Western Republics	1998
Flowers, C. Scott, South Africa	1998
Hardin, David, Tanzania	1998
Hendrix, Ashley, Mexico	1998
Hill, Barry, South Africa	1998
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Hoopes, Diana (Mrs. Albert), Philippines-Luzon	1998
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Perry, Lisa R., Asia	1998
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Porter, Alberta (Mrs. Lawrence), Uganda	1998
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Smith, Roy A., South Africa	1998
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Collins, Audrey, Central & Southern Asia	1999
Fisher, Lee Carol (Mrs. Kenneth), Central & Southern Asia	1999
Hall, Lawrence W., Central & Southern Asia	1999
Harrell, Clarence, Southeast Asia & Oceania	1999
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Henry, Nathan L., Sr., Southeast Asia & Oceania	1999
Holbrook, Paul H., Northern Africa & Middle East	1999
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Webb, Misty Dawn, Asia	1999
Young, Terry W., Southeast Asia & Oceania	1999
Sherrill, Jon Derek, Central and Southern Asia	2000
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Miller, Ricky Gene, Western Pacific	2000
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Taylor, Lisa Renee, South America	2000
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Brockett, Christopher Eric, Southeast Asia & Oceania	2000
Rodgers, Kevin Wade, Southern Africa	2000
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Histories of church and associational WMU organizations (on file in WMU office)

Personal interviews and written correspondence from many individuals.

Verbal conversations and on-sight participation in many events.

Recorded interviews with former presidents.

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About the Author

Dorothy (Dot) Purvis Allred is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina. She grew up in the missions organizations of the Asheboro Street Baptist Church (now Friendly Avenue) in that city. She married Hoyle T. Allred, a business man whom God called back to school to study for the ministry following Navy service during World War II.



Trained as a legal secretary, Dot worked in a corporate law office for ten years. She attended Carver School of Missions and Social Work and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, in preparation for her role as a pastor's wife.

Dot served with her husband during his pastoral work in Greensboro, North Carolina; Worthville, Kentucky; Albemarle, North Carolina; and Gastonia, North Carolina. For one year she served as a reporter and staff writer for the *Gastonia Gazette*. She was a writer for two six-month program assignments for mission action groups in *Royal Service* magazine. She served on her husband's staff when he became director of missions for the Gaston Association. Dr. Allred is now deceased.

The Allreds have three daughters, six grandchildren (one deceased), and six great-grandchildren.

Dot served as second and first vice president, and then president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina for five years, and as a vice president of Woman's Missionary Union Southern Baptist Convention during this period. She served two years as first vice president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Since retirement from her full-time work at the Gaston Association, Dot has served two interim periods as church development director for the association and one year as interim executive director of North Carolina WMU.

Dot Allred considers herself a very ordinary woman with an extraordinary God.

Fannie E.S. Heck, North Carolina WMU President in 1915 wrote:
Changes will come; new faces take the place of old; new and broader plans succeed those of today; but our beloved Union is safe in our Master's care. Endeavor to see the needs of the world from God's standpoint.

Changes have come—new faces have taken the place of old—however, eighty-seven years later Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina stands as a testimony to the Master's care.

As you read *And So Much More*, it is our hope you will be reminded of how God has blessed this organization as women have "endeavored to see the world from God's standpoint."

Today, you will continue to see new organizations, new leaders and new models of ministry—each challenged by the need "to prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission." (WMU of NC purpose statement, 2002)

Read with a heart sensitive to the potential of your personal acceptance of this challenge, being reminded of how the Father has shown "He will do so much more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." (Ephesians 3:20 NIV) May it be so for you.

Ruby Fulbright, President

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